

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 Story and the Jesus Story: Live the Story

This year we embark on a bend in the road of our faith journey with the Word of God as our compass. The Gospels will become more familiar to our young people and brought into the homes with the hope that we, as a parish community, will gather to hear God's Word proclaimed at our Sunday Eucharist and join in the feast of God's loving presence.

Since **faith and worship** go hand in hand we will use **Gospel Weeklies (published by Pflaum)**, a small take-home booklet given at each class, to involve parents and to foster the **participation of all at Sunday Mass**. For the whole parish, the Gospel can come to life, become relevant and bring the results we all pray for in our daily lives.

- * **Promise (Gr. 1)** will help children begin to participate in worship in an active way. Storytelling, prayer and fun activities relate children's own experience to the Gospel. Weekly "lessons in love" can also be shared by parents.
- * **Good News (Gr. 2 & 3)** will guide early grades to more involvement

in Sunday worship as they see how the readings tie into their own lives. Realistic stories and Gospel narrations plus fun-to-do hands-on activities support learning. (Sacrament preparation for Gr. 2 with **Making Things Right** for Reconciliation and **Called to His Supper** for First Eucharist along with materials for parents to use at home will complement the process.)

- * **Venture (Gr. 4, 5 & 6)** will lead our young people to make moral choices and explore an expanding faith through Gospel dramatizations, current events, and original stories linked to the Gospel and children's own lives. (With saints' lives in comic book format and imaginative activities to demonstrate applications of the Gospel message and "THINK" questions to reinforce doctrinal concepts.)
- * **Visions (Gr. 7 & 8)** will emphasize social justice, moral reasoning and service to others through current-interest articles and life-dilemma stories. Discussion starters help

young teens explore links between today's issues, the Sunday readings (including Old Testament) and their own lives.

Included in the process is a small book housed in each learner's folder titled *What the Church Believes and Teaches* that is integrated in each lesson.

Building on the Gospel theme of the Sunday's Gospel the lesson moves in three parts: **Sharing our Life Stories, Listening to the Gospel, and Building Christian Community**. Because each week is new with timely pictures and events, relevant applications and engaging experiences at each moment, the prayer life of each learner, the knowledge base and moral implications come alive for a more lived faith with the person of Jesus, central to each young person. The take home handout can create conversations at home and provide another impetus for **regular Sunday Mass attendance**. Response to needs of social justice and the common good are also at the heart of this process with Jesus showing us "The WAY."

DATES to REMEMBER

Sunday, September 8: The Liturgy of the Word for Children ages 4 through 9 begins during the 10:30 Family Mass

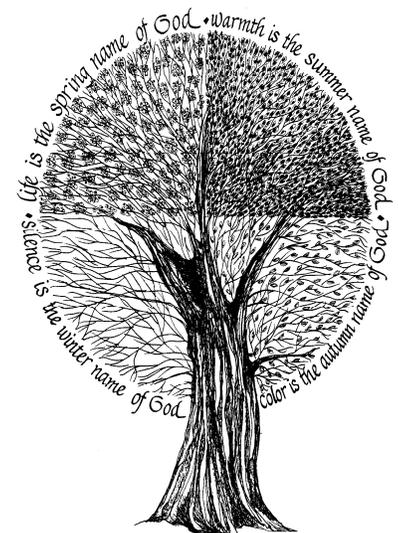
Sunday, September 15: *Catechetical Sunday* – Over 60 catechists will be recognized at the weekend liturgies for their commitment to teach

Sunday, September 22: Religious Ed begins for Sunday young people for Gr. 1-8 at 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, September 25: Religious Ed begins for Wednesday afternoon children for Gr. 2-4 at 3:30 p.m. and for Wednesday evening, Gr. 5-8 young people at 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2: Religious Ed. begins for Gr.1 Wednesday children at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 6: Gr. 9 Confirmation candidates assemble in Kenny Hall at 4:00 p.m.



What Parents and Young People Need to Follow for St. Augustine's Religious Ed

Wednesday afternoons for Grades 1– 4

- ◆ **Enter the main doors to Kenny Hall from Larchmont Avenue** (only entrance available for safety reasons)
- ◆ **Provide your own snack** before or while waiting in Kenny Hall sitting on assigned chairs for each grade and class.
- ◆ **Sister Suzanne will provide care and supervision** with her puppets from 3:15 p.m. on in Kenny Hall. At 3:30 p.m. the music and movement will begin for all the children.
- ◆ **At 3:45 p.m. Sister will direct the catechists** to lead their classes to the classrooms for the Gospel Weeklies.
- ◆ **At 4:45 p.m. the bell will ring for dismissal.** Entrance and exit for **Gr. 1 and 2** parents and caregivers is done via the main doors to Kenny Hall from Larchmont Avenue. These children will be dismissed from Kenny Hall at their assigned places with parents/caregivers signing the clipboard for safety purposes.
- ◆ **Gr. 3 and 4** will exit via the main doors led by their catechists on the first floor to Larchmont Avenue. Parents and caregivers will stand on the sidewalk.

Wednesday evenings for Grades 5 – 8

- ◆ **Entrance and exit will occur only through the main doors to the school near the Religious Ed office.** (This is the only door that will be open for safety reasons.) Gr. 5 and 6 will assemble in Kenny Hall. Gr. 7 in the cafeteria and Gr. 8 in their first floor classrooms. **At 7:15 p.m. the bell will ring.** Catechists will lead their classes to the classrooms for the Gospel Weeklies.
- ◆ **At 8:30 p.m. the bell will ring for dismissal.** Every learner will exit via the main doors in a dignified manner led by their catechist. No pushing, shouting or running will be tolerated.

Sundays for Grades 1 – 8

- ◆ Entrance and exit are via the main doors near the Religious Ed. Office. **ALL LEARNERS will assemble in Kenny Hall. At 9:00 a.m. the bell rings.** The catechists lead their classes to the classrooms. At 10:15 a.m. the bell will ring for dismissal. Parents may wait for their children in Kenny Hall.
- ◆ Grades 1 and 2 will be dismissed in Kenny Hall with a parent/caregiver. **Grades 3-8 will exit only via the main doors to Larchmont Avenue.**

Special considerations, please, from your director:

- ◇ **Wednesday afternoon snacks will not be served,** but children may bring their own snack and finish it by 3:30 p.m.
- ◇ **No food may be brought into the classrooms by young people or catechists.** For special occasions Kenny Hall and/or the cafeteria will be used for any food consumption.
- ◇ **Parking is available in the parking lot behind the school, on Larchmont Avenue, Cherry Avenue and Elm.** Double parking is prohibited by the Larchmont Police. Extra moments of patience will provide safety for our children. We are grateful to the **Larchmont Police** for the traffic control and supervision they provide.
- ◇ Any young people without pickup will be brought to the Rel. Ed. Office where parents/caregivers will claim them.
- ◇ **Consistent attendance is expected.** If a learner has a total of three absences, a conference with the parents will be required. Confirmation preparation begins at Baptism and continues throughout the years preceding this sacrament. A call to report an absence is expected by a parent.

The *Augmenter* logo on page 1 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.

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

Send suggestions for future articles to:
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