

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 entire task in this life consists in healing the eyes of the heart so that they may be able to see God. — St. Augustine

Advent and Christmas

When I was a little girl I learned this poem:

**“What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him—
Give my heart.”**

[Christina G. Rossetti quotes](#) (English Poet. 1830-1894)

It wiggles its tiny perceptible presence inside of me when I least expect, leaping into my imagination with a constancy that plays a symphony of sounds and words that endures. Possibly that which we learn when we are young is more valuable than I often realize. Yet I notice it all the more in the faces of the many children--60, 70 and even 80 children who follow me each Sunday for Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30 Mass. Their faces register a hunger for God that is real and alive. God's Word is like that—always calling us to listen and to respond to a love that reaches deep within. As Advent and Christmas approach may we prefer and respond to the important in our lives rather than the urgencies that beckon and tend to supersede.

Sister Suzanne

And They Have Seen His Star

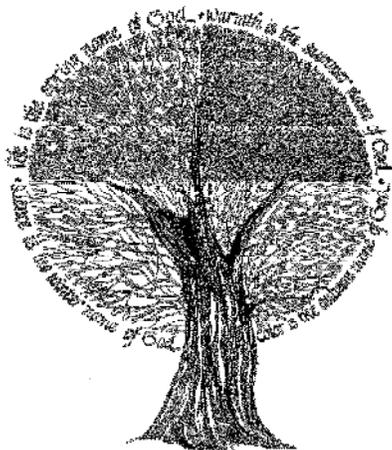
The title of the **Advent/Christmas Pageant** this year reminds us to notice and be aware of that **STAR** that some noticed and followed while others missed. “What star do we follow?” is possibly the question that might arise in each of us. The image of the Innkeeper's door, closed tight, sometimes slammed and finally opened to our God will also capture our hearts to remind us of the doors in our own lives we use to shut people out but also open wide to bring in the **SAVIOR**. Even the “Friendly Beasts” will make their way into our hearts as they

nestle near Emmanuel this year. **Our first graders**

and our STAY Connected youth will join with our illustrious **choir under the direction of Michael Ward** to dazzle, delight and deepen our awareness of **GOD WITH US** now and always.

Please join us on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. in Kenny Hall for this event. Refreshments, compliments of our teens, will follow.

This is family catechesis at its best!



The *Augmenter* logo 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., Director of Religious Education,
Publisher and Editor of *The Augmenter*. Send suggestions
for future articles to: srsuzanne@verizon.net



Buy an Advent and/or Christmas Wreath Support Earth and our Local Food Pantries

Out STAY Connected youth group will be selling Advent and/or Christmas wreaths the weekend of Dec. 1 and 2 after the Masses in front of the church.

The wreaths are coming from Sisters Gail, Bernadette and Amie at the Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont. The Sisters hand harvest the balsam from their trees in the forest on their property for you. They trim

the balsam branches to encourage heartier trees and receive the incredibly fragrant gift of these noble friends of the forest in return. In a world where we are presented with the devastation of Earth and its life systems at every level, this small act of "Communion consciousness" models a different way of being human within the sacred community of life.

The cost is \$25 with \$5 going to our local food pantries for every wreath sold. Each wreath is 20 inches with a bow and pine cones. Please reserve a wreath by signing the poster at the rear of the church or email staugred@verizon.net.

We are hoping to sell 50 wreaths this year. Please support us and the needs of our local food pantries.

The Empty Bowls Project

Help Eradicate Hunger

Empty Bowls (emptybowls.net) is an international grassroots effort to eradicate hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. The basic premise is simple: Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup, bread and fruit and reminded of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity. There are craft tables for children and entertainment is provided for all by our STAY Connected musicians



St. Augustine's Kenny Hall

Sunday, January 20th at 6:00 p.m.

The cost is a donation of \$7 or more for each adult, 18 years or over.

Children 13 through 17 years — \$5

Children 5 through 12 years — \$3

Children under 5 years are free.

The money raised will be given to the **HOPE Community Services** in New Rochelle and the **CAP Center** in Mamaroneck.

Hosted by the **STAY Connected Youth Leaders**

RSVP to (914) 834-9523 or email staugred@verizon.net by January 13th