

# 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

## *Christ Wants More in Sunday Worship and Wisdom Learned*

Worship and wisdom are the two hands of our faith while justice and charity are the left and right footsteps we take on our faith journey. But the heart of our faith is JESUS. The person of Jesus comes alive through the Sunday Gospels proclaimed each week in our worship and learn through our religious education classes and home life.

Since **faith and worship** go hand in hand, we use **Gospel Weeklies (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 comes to life, becomes relevant and brings the blessings 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 their own lives. Saints' lives in comic book format, imaginative activities to demonstrate applications of the Gospel message and "THINK" questions will 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 the 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 so that the **person of Jesus is the heart of the message**. The take home handout can create conversations at home and provide another impetus for **regular Sunday Mass attendance**. Response to the needs of social justice and the common good are also at the heart of this process with Jesus showing us The WAY.

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

**Sunday, September 7:** The Liturgy of the Word for Children ages 4 through 9 begins during the 10:30 Family Mass

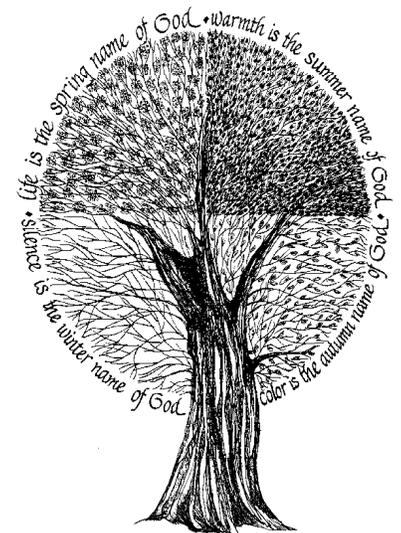
**Sunday, September 14:** Religious Ed begins for Gr. 1-8 at **9:00** in Kenny Hall for parents and children with an opening prayer service. Dismissal is at **10:15 a.m.**

**Wednesday, September 17:** 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.

**Sunday, September 21: Catechetical Sunday** – Over 60 catechists will be recognized at the weekend liturgies for their commitment to teach.

**Wednesday, September 24:** Religious Ed. begins for Gr.1 Wednesday children at 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 5:** 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 provides care and supervision** from 3:15 p.m. on in Kenny Hall.
- ◆ **At 3:30 p.m. the actual start time**, music and movement will begin for all the children followed by procession to the classrooms.
- ◆ **At 4:45 p.m. the bell will ring for dismissal.**

### Exits:

- ⇒ **for Gr. 2** parents and caregivers is done via the **main doors to Kenny Hall** from Larchmont Avenue,
- ⇒ **for Gr. 1** through the **cafeteria side door leading to the parking lot in the back of the school.**
- ⇒ **Gr. 3 and 4** via the **main doors** led by their catechists on the first floor to Larchmont Avenue. Parents and caregivers will wait on the sidewalk.
- ⇒ Children with younger siblings will follow the exit of the youngest sibling.

## 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. 6 and 7 will assemble in Kenny Hall, Gr. 5 in the cafeteria and Gr. 8 in their first floor classrooms. **At 7:15 p.m. the bell will ring.** After this, learners must report to the office for a late slip to enter their classroom.
- ◆ **At 8:30 p.m. Gr. 6, 7 and 8 will be dismissed via the main doors led by their catechist. Gr. 5 exits via the side door of the cafeteria to the parking lot.** Fifth grade parents are expected to park in the rear lot. Patience, care and safety are paramount.

## 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.
- ◆ 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 Avenue.** 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, an email will be sent to arrange for a conference with parents. Confirmation preparation begins at Baptism and continues throughout the years preceding this sacrament. A call from a parent to report an absence is expected .

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.

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