

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

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” – St. Augustine

God Weaves The Ribbons. . . of Compassion, Care of our Common Home and Contemplation

We are intent on following the call of Christ by looking with “new eyes” on those around us, noticing needs, responding to relieve and serve by “**loving together.**” Acts of tenderness, respect, sensitivity, consideration, gentleness and attentiveness to others become the watchwords for a new age of **compassion**, encouraging our young people to walk in “another’s shoes.”



Since February 2016, the parish of St. Augustine has launched a waste reduction initiative, in response to Pope Francis’ call for us to **care for our common home** in his encyclical, *Laudato Si* (2016), and in honor of St. Augustine’s 125th anniversary. Many parishioners read the Pope’s encyclical together in groups in winter/spring 2016.

As part of this **waste reduction initiative**, our parish is trying to improve our culture of the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle), and we are going beyond that to include food waste recycling in the Zero Waste events we have been organizing this December 2016. Eventually, we hope to have permanent food waste recycling infrastructure and pick-up service as we have for paper, plastic and metal recycling. This would reinforce the Village of Larchmont/Town of Mamaroneck’s food waste recycling program for residents starting in the fall of 2017.

We are encouraging families through the awareness and everyday actions of children and young people to lead in this endeavor as integral to their growth as disciples of Christ. Pope Francis urges us: “Along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all of society.” (*Laudato Si*, para.231)



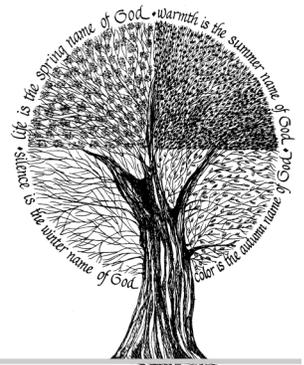
The journey to the “**prayer of the heart**” (**contemplation**) begins in our “**heart space.**” Children and young people are led in their gathering place each week to attend to the sound of a waterfall by listening to the water with renewed interest and attention. They are instructed to make the **Sharkfin – 5 Ss: Sit up straight, Sit still, Sit silently, Soft breathing and Shut eyes** with mindfulness. By using sight and sound technology they enter the heart of God. In that silence they walk to their classrooms ready to begin responding to the Sunday Gospel, Jesus’ Love Story. They engage in learning with others initiatives of living out God’s Call.

Dates to Remember

- September 10 Pancake Breakfast after the 10:30 Family Mass – Liturgy of the Word with Sister Suzanne begins for Ages 4 through 9
- September 17 Catechetical Sunday and Sunday classes begin
- September 27 Wednesday classes begin for Grades 2 through 8
- October 1 **Before the Flood** (film) in Kenny Hall 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- October 4 Wednesday 1st grade begins
- October 15 Confirmation candidates begin their sessions

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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.



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

Wednesday afternoons for Grades 1– 4

Arrival:

- ◆ **Gr. 2, 3 & 4 enter the main doors to Kenny Hall from Larchmont Avenue** (only entrance available for safety reasons) and sit in assigned row of chairs.
- ◆ **Gr. 1 enters through the red side door to the cafeteria** off the parking lot and is directed to their assigned table.
- ◆ **Sister Suzanne provides care and supervision** from 3:15 p.m. on in Kenny Hall and the cafeteria.
- ◆ **At 3:30 p.m. the actual start time Sister Suzanne will provide an initial heart home time of prayer. Gr. 1 will have music and movement in the cafeteria, heart home time with Sr. Suzanne followed by procession to the classrooms.**

Dismissal:

- ⇒ **Pick-up for Gr. 2 for parents/caregivers** is done via the **main doors to Kenny Hall** from Larchmont Avenue in Kenny Hall.
- ⇒ **Pick-up for Gr. 1 parents/care-givers through the cafeteria side door leading to the parking lot in the back of the school to the cafeteria.**
- ⇒ **Gr.1 and 2 parents/care-givers must initial the exit chart for the child to be dismissed.**
- ⇒ **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. 5, 6, 7 and 8 will assemble in Kenny Hall. **At 7:00 p.m. classes officially begin with the gathering prayer and ritual.** After 7:15 learners must report to the office for a late slip to enter the Hall or classroom.
- ◆ **At 8:15 p.m. Gr. 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be dismissed via the main doors led by their catechist.** No learner may exit any other doors at dismissal for safety reasons.

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. classes officially begin with the gathering prayer and ritual.** After 9:00 all learners must report to the office for a late slip to enter the Hall or classroom.
- ◆ **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 children may bring their own healthy 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 .