

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

Early Registration Yields Blessings for All

**Registration Fees
by May 31, 2018**

- \$300.00 one child
- \$400.00 two children
- \$500.00 three or more children

**Registration Fees
by June 30, 2018**

- \$350.00 one child
- \$450.00 two children
- \$550.00 three or more children

**Registration Fees
starting July 1, 2018**

- \$450.00 one child
- \$550.00 two children
- \$650.00 three or more children

Payment Plan available monthly (10 months) June-March, determined at the time of registration in the time frames and categories listed.

- Donations welcome
- Scholarships available

Checks Payable to: St. Augustine Religious Ed.

**Additional
Sacramental Fees**

- 2nd Gr. Eucharist \$100.00
- 9th Gr. Confirmation \$200.00

One of the greatest struggles these last ten years has been **receiving registration forms and payment on time**. In order to make 45 plus classes for the projected 650 children in 2018-19 getting a confirmation on the enrollment is paramount. **This year registration fees are determined by timing**. If the registration fee is not received by the above date the increased amount will be applied. After August 1, registrants will be put on a waiting list.

In order to provide convenience and make the registration easier I am investigating online registration and credit card payment but it is not available yet. If and when this is in operation I will inform you by email. At this moment, the easiest way is to fill out the form, write the check, and fill in the new card for our office purpose to optimize some new accounting procedures I wish to begin. The volume of the work load has increased tremendously with the enrollment increase from 465 to the present 638 in ten years.

I am actually begging you to respond early and pay less! Since payment plans are also an option your concerns are lifted, but on time payment monthly is also expected. **However, no child will be admitted this year without a registration form (that acts as an emergency form) for the safety of every family.**

Catechist Recruitment

Finding competent catechists is prayer, an art and a skill. But knowing how many I need becomes essential. That depends on how many students are registered. Keeping class size low is a drawing card for recruiting catechists. Some parents are reluctant to become catechists because they are not professional teachers but being a parent is already criteria for this role. Ideally I would prefer having two catechists in a class at all times. Passing on the faith to our children and young people is the essence of discipleship. Please consider this calling. I will have a special session for first time catechists in September in addition to the orientation meetings for the new year. **I can teach you how to be a catechist!** Please contact me at the office 914-834-9523 or my email. srsuzanne@staugustineny.org. I need to find catechists by June 30, the deadline, before families are gone on vacation.

Mass Attendance--an Obligation or a Commitment

As I look back on these past ten years I realize that I have not been able to inspire, encourage and increase Sunday Mass attendance. It pains me to realize that our **Gospel Weeklies** lectionary based program emphasizing the Sunday Gospel which is proclaimed at Sunday Mass did not take effect in the homes of our families. Catechists attest to this observation constantly from what they learn from the children and young people. Because I have been unwilling to make it mandatory, as other parishes have done, with an accounting system, signatures and the like, I have failed. I hope to instill a real love for the Mass rather than an obligation. This did not occur. Even my Liturgy of the Word for Children at the 10:30 a.m. Family Sunday Mass was not a drawing card for as many as I had hoped. Michael Ward's Children's Choir adds so much to participation but only was able to do so much to inspire attendance.

The registration form asks for a commitment to Sunday Mass as the heart of our faith. Getting into the habit of regular Sunday Mass needs the same diligence as attendance as sports events/practices with our children. When each of us assesses what we give our children that lasts a lifetime, it is the commitment to our faith life that will sustain them. A relationship with Christ starts when they are young and grows over a lifetime. But it needs consistent nurturing, not just in the religious education program, but in church at Mass.

SACRAMENTAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesdays April 25; May 2 and May 9

1st Eucharist Rehearsals occur during Wednesday classes in the church with children and catechists. Regular Wednesday class times are observed beginning and ending in Kenny Hall.

3:30-3:55 p.m. 2A1, 2S1
3:55-4:20 p.m. 2A2, 2A3
4:20-4:45 p.m. 2A4, 2A5

Wednesday May 16

1st Eucharist Rehearsals take the place of regular Wednesday class in the church with parents and children.

3:45-4:30 p.m. 2A2, 2A3 (10:30 a.m. group)
4:40-5:25 p.m. 2A4, 2A5 (noon group)
5:30-6:15 p.m. 2A1, 2S1 (9:00 a.m. group)

First Eucharist—May 19

8:30 am--Children assemble in Kenny Hall for the 9:00 am Liturgy-- 2A1 and 2S1

10:00am—Children assemble in Kenny Hall for the 10:30 am Liturgy—2A2 and 2A3

11:30 am—Children assemble in Kenny Hall for the noon Liturgy—2A4 and 2A5

Confirmation

Rehearsal in church—Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 pm for candidates—Parents and sponsors join the group at 8:00 pm until 8:30 pm

Sunday, June 10 at 1:30 pm—Candidates, Parents and Sponsors assemble in Kenny Hall to meet with Bishop Lagonegro

Confirmation Mass begins at 2:30 p.m.

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

Send suggestions for future articles to:
srsuzanne@staugustineny.org

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.

