

# 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*

## NEW APPROACH TO FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Since most parents spend their time traveling on a train, waiting for a their children's sports event or practice to end, or waiting in a doctor's office it seems that a different format may help in communicating with you, the parents. Social media does dominate our life and so we will capitalize on its possibilities. The **Augmenter will not be sent to your home by snail mail any longer**; instead the **Augmenter will only be available on our website**. An email will announce its issuance. Hopefully the articles can be read whenever you wish in those waiting times.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 9 Midnight Run

9 Confirmation candidates will be traveling to Manhattan with adult volunteers in the late evening to converse with and offer clothes, food and toiletries to the homeless.



**November 14 and 18**  
Children choose an Angel for their Angel Giving

**November 18 Parents and Candidates for Confirmation meeting at 3:30 pm in Kenny Hall followed by the 5:00 pm Enrollment Mass.**

**November 18 Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service** at 7:00 pm at the Larchmont Temple



**November 22 Thanksgiving Mass** at 9:30 am followed by the **Delivery of the Thanksgiving Meals**



**November 28 and December 2**  
Children bring their Angel Gift



**December 2 Advent/Christmas wreaths are sold** after the 9:00, 10:30, noon and 5:00 pm Masses by the Confirmation candidates to benefit the work of the Sisters of the

Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont in their preservation of Earth

**December 2 Pot Luck Supper** in Kenny Hall at 6:00 pm for families



**December 9 Confirmation Retreat** at 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Kenny Hall and **Older Teens Retreat (Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors)** at 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the rectory living room—both hosted by ABC Ministries

**December 16 Family Catechesis--Christmas Journey to Bethlehem--** hosted by our First Grade and their parents at 3:30 pm in Kenny Hall—All are invited followed by cookies and hot chocolate in the cafeteria, compliments of the Knights of Columbus

**December 16 and 19**  
Last Rel. Ed. Classes for 2018

**January 6 and 9—classes resume in 2019**

*Thanks for our catechists and assistants, people who give themselves unreservedly to the spread of our faith and the witness of the Gospel. The dedication and dynamism of these people mark the meaning of all that is—God With Us.*

**First Grade**

- 1A1 Jodi Jamieson & \*Aiofe O'Reilly
- 1A2 Sharon Selvaggio
- 1A3 \*Audrey Smith & \*Katherine Orgielewicz
- 1A4 Laura Noll, Helen Propersi & Fiona Fitzpatrick
- 1A5 Brenda McMillan & \*Michelle Greenhut
- 1S1 \*Courtney Nunns & Molly Joyce

**Second Grade**

- 2A1 Terry Donnellan
- 2A2 Gabrielle Colletti
- 2A3 \*Melissa Woods & \*Annie Berger
- 2A4 Lauren Jackson & Michele Autuoro
- 2A5 \*Charlotte Thivaos & \*Anne Wagstaff
- 2S1 Joan Haworth & Liam O'Reilly

**Third Grade**

- 3A1 Maureen Winner
- 3A2 Linnea Holmes
- 3A3 Meegan Insley
- 3A4 Valerie Mouracade & Courtney Hewson
- 3A5 \*Ruthanne Fairweather & Jake Antinelli
- 3S1 Christa Condon & William Webb

**Fourth Grade**

- 4A1 Therese Boyd
- 4A2 Kim Finn
- 4A3 Juliet Webb & Grayson Graham
- 4A4 \*Cecilia Mellet
- 4S1 Gilles Mellet & \*Evie Astorina

**Fifth Grade**

- 5E1 \*Domitille Lemoine & \*Enrico Manaog
- 5E2 Margaret Kohler & \*Julie Gerola
- 5E3 Amanda Schlumberger & Laura Maloney
- 5E4 Jodi Jamieson & \*Andrew Jamieson
- 5E5 \*Lionel Mellet
- 5S1 Gilles Mellet & \*Evie Astorina
- 5S2 Carey Federspiel & Karen Khor

**Sixth Grade**

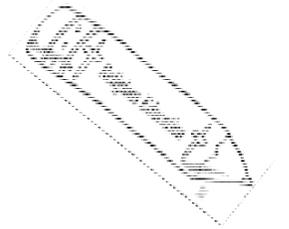
- 6E1 Rosa Sofia Kaminski & Josephina Kaminski
- 6E2 \*Jamie Soropoulus & \*Sydney Warwick
- 6E3 \*Amanda Burns & \*Caitlin Ausili
- 6E4 Julia Finn & \*Lorelei Bertini
- 6S1 Terence Joyce & Laura Kiernan
- 6S2 Charles Dupin & Amelha Dupin

**Seventh Grade**

- 7E1 Todd Isberg
- 7E2 \*George Gristina & \*Declan Wicks
- 7E3 \*Kerry Soropoulus & \*Rory Sheppard
- 7E4 \*Thomas Bodkin & Jack Gisondi
- 7S1 Shonna Keogan & Lynn Maffei

**Eighth Grade**

- 8E1 Anne McCarthy
- 8E2 Elizabeth Kearney
- 8E3 Greg Hurley
- 8E4 Mary Spollen
- 8S1 \*Miguel Sancho & \*Matthew Kearney

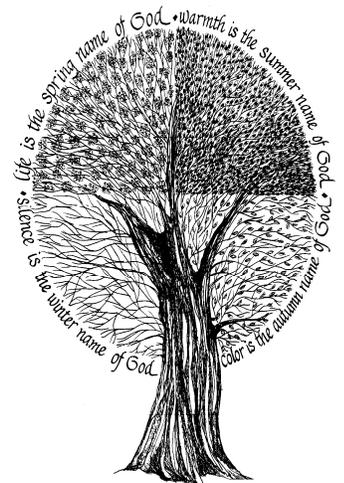


**High School Confirmation**  
Sister Suzanne

Assistants  
Rachel Erfe  
Michele Phelan

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.

- \* **New Catechists & Assistants as of 2018**
- \*\* **Special Wednesday Volunteers:**  
Rachel Grimm, Clorinda Obregón, Robert Paoli, Maurizio Bertini and Tom Burns
- \*\*\* **Special Sunday Volunteers:**  
Angela Best, Diane Lama, Nikica Majic Maura Gallagher and Ed Rice
- \*\*\*\*\* **Wednesday Child Care Volunteers:**  
Keelan Morton, coordinator;  
Lisa Collins, Jeanne Grzywacz,  
Leslie Ingram, Megan Johnson,  
Sandra Torres and Gabbe Weigel



Sister Suzanne Duzen, SS.C.M.,  
Director of Religious Education  
Publisher of *The Augmenter*  
Send suggestions for future articles to:  
srsuzanne@staugustineny.org

I wish each of you a Christmas each day of the New Year where we recognize Christ's presence among us and encounter the face of Christ in each.

Yours in grace and peace,

Sister Suzanne Duzen, SS.C.M.

# BEST PRACTICES IN FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

by John Roberto

As church leaders and educators, we all recognize that the family is the first community of faith and the most powerful influence on the faith of children and teenagers. We also recognize that parents are the first educators of their children, providing the foundation for a spiritual and religious life. **We know that the family needs to be a vital part of the process of lifelong faith formation at all stages of faith development, and that parents need help to assume their roles in fostering faith and a deeper spirituality within their homes.** We are aware of the tremendous changes family life has undergone in the past forty years, and the present day diversity in family forms and structures.

We know that families are stretched and stressed in new and challenging ways, putting new demands on family life and congregational ministry. We know that family time and shared family activities, such as the daily meal, have suffered because of work demands, busy schedules, and a rise in individual activities. We are sadly aware of the decline in family religious practice at home and participation in the life of the congregation. Busy schedules often push religious activities—at home or in church—off the calendar.

We also know that parents increasingly feel ill prepared for the task of sharing religious traditions with their children. Unfortunately many congregations have contributed to the situation by over-emphasizing age-segregated programming, which further divides families, and over-programming family members.

Oftentimes there is little to no programming that engages the entire family as a family, or that empowers and equips parents for their task as the primary religious teachers of their children and teens. Sadly, many churches blame parents for the situation or have given up on families, “because they don’t come to Sunday worship or the programs we offer, so why bother.”

This article seeks to provide church leaders and educators with a review of the literature on family faith practices and their implications for congregational ministry. The research studies we have consulted explored family faith practice among religiously committed families.

These studies will help us answer five questions.

1. How does family religious involvement benefit children, teens, and adults, and strengthen the family?
2. What is the impact of parental faith on children and teens?
- 3.. How do families practice their faith at home?
4. What are the core family faith practices?
5. How can congregations engage in family faith formation?

If you are interested in reading the rest of this article that may have peaked your curiosity please click this link:

[www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/.../best\\_practices\\_in\\_family\\_faith\\_formation.pdf](http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/.../best_practices_in_family_faith_formation.pdf)