



St. William the Abbot
Roman Catholic Church

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September 4, 2020

To the St. William the Abbot Family,

The last six months have been difficult times for our community and parish. Fortunately, we have been blessed to remain a parish community that is united and strong in their faith. Although procedures have changed we have still been able to celebrate First Communions, Marriages and Baptisms.

The way that we have “DONE” church and will “DO” church, parish, and ministries will continue to be adjusted and may never return to the way things have been. We will continue to monitor and receive guidance from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, CDC, and the State of New York we will continue to update you and implement the changes.

New Mass Schedule - Starting on Saturday, September 12, 2020 until further notice:

- Daily Mass: 8:30 am
- Saturday Mass: 8:30 am & 5:00 pm
- Sunday Mass: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:00 pm.

The Rectory – The Rectory will remain closed, until further notice. Please visit stwilliam.org to request forms and certificates. You may also email information@stwilliam.org for special requests, questions, or concerns.

Ministries and Groups - The ministries of Altar Servers, EM's, Lectors, and Ushers as well as all activities and events held here at St. William the Abbot will continue to be on hold until further notice.

Mass Cards - We will begin issuing Mass Cards, enrollment in the Purgatorial Society, and Memorializing the Wine and Host and Altar Flowers. Please call the Rectory for more information (516) 785-1266.

Live-Streaming Masses - We will begin to live-stream the daily Masses on Monday, September 14. We will also continue to live-stream the Sunday 12:00 pm Mass. To View the Masses please visit the parish website stwilliam.org.

Safety, Guidelines, & Process - We are allowed to have up to 50% capacity per Mass as per the State guidelines.

- We are asking you to enter the Church using the main doors on Jackson Avenue.
- Parishioners must wear a Mask when on the church property.
- Attending Mass will continue to be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Based on the guidelines, up to 160 parishioners will be allowed in the church.
- The Church doors will be opened 30 minutes before Mass.
- We ask all parishioners to bring their hand sanitizers, masks, and antibacterial wipes.
- When entering the church, please grab an antibacterial wipe to clean your area when you exit the church.
- The restrooms will be closed, only open for emergencies.
- Please follow the seating arrangement, that the Task Force members will assign to you.
- Please maintain the 6ft Social Distancing Protocol apart from other Parishioners.
- We have developed a new protocol to enter and exit the church to ensure safety and social distancing.
- Your generosity has not only sustained us but helped us to thrive. You will notice the collection will no longer take place, but there will be an offertory basket provided at the entrance of the church to drop off envelopes.
- The Church will remain closed when Mass is not being celebrated.
- There will be deep cleaning performed in the church after each Mass, we ask all parishioners to exit the church immediately after Mass.
- Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians are only allowed in the Sacristy.
- Holy Water fonts will remain empty.

Continued General Provisions from the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

- The Dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation Masses continues to remain in effect for the Diocese of Rockville Centre until further notice.
- Those at higher risk from COVID-19 (i.e. the elderly or who have underlying health conditions) are highly encouraged to stay home.
- Until further notice there will be no entrance processions or recessions through the congregation so as to avoid close contact with numerous people.
- The offertory procession (bringing up the gifts) should be omitted until further notice.
- The invitation to the faithful to exchange a sign of peace continues to be omitted entirely.
- In order to reflect both the Church's great reverence for the Eucharist, while also providing appropriate precautions against infection, Holy Communion in the Diocese of Rockville Centre will be distributed after Mass has ended. The priest will direct the congregation at the end of Mass with the direction and location. The faithful must maintain a 6-foot distance from each other as they come forward for Holy Communion.
- The Precious Blood may not be distributed.

We asked for patience during these reopening phases and prayers.

Peace,

