



# St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

## Weekly Schedule

### Daily Mass

Monday – Saturday: 8:30am

### Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12n

### Live-Streamed Masses

Monday – Friday: 8:30am

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 12n

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday – Saturday: 7:15am – 8:20am

Saturday: 3:45pm – 4:50pm

### Adoration

Monday – Saturday: 7:15am – 8:20am

First Friday of the Month: 9am – 5pm

### Private Prayer

Monday – Friday: 7:15am – 6pm

*“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”*  
Matthew 11:4–6

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, December 14th

7:30am: The Marano Family

9am: Patricia McNulty

10:30am: People of St. William's, Robert Eagan,

Virginia Thidemann, Regina Latino

12n: Anthony DiPadova

### Monday, December 15th

8:30am: Donald, Emma & Michael Ustler

### Tuesday, December 16th

8:30am: Patricia Owen

### Wednesday, December 17th

8:30am Joseph Vincent DeCato, Andrew Walsleben (liv),

Mary Cesare, Robert & John Biagini

### Thursday, December 18th

8:30am: JoAnn Disarno, Thomas Connelly,

Marie Skennion, Marie Arcidiacono

### Friday, December 19th

8:30am: Sue Boden

### Saturday, December 20th

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: Maureen McDonough

## Pray for the Sick

Richard Fedyk - Rosemary Averill - Barbara Geraghty - Charlie Herbert

Anthony DiBono - Frances Speidell - Thomas Stolfi - Thomas Lynch

## Pray for the Deceased

William Hughes - Carol G. Puleo - Katherine Tighe - Salvatore Joseph Lupo

### The Sanctuary Candle

has been donated in

loving memory of

Harry Haas

from Michael Haas

### The Altar Candles

have been donated in

honor of

Deacon Herley Mendez

### The Wine and Hosts

have been donated in

loving memory of

Harry Haas

from Michael & Nancy Haas

stwilliam.org

## ***Gaudete – Rejoice in the promise of the Father***

Even in this time of wrapping presents and decorating the house, at the core of all that we do, underneath it all, the Season of Advent is a time to rejoice. Emmanuel - God is with us - and that is a reason for rejoicing! Yes, Jesus was born 2000 years ago but also comes alive today in this Jubilee year of Hope 2025; love is born again and comes alive in us. Gaudete means to rejoice, and the rose/pink candle on the Advent wreath is lighter than the others, it is showing the glimpses, the streaks of Christ's Light, preparing to enter the world.

Last weekend in Connecticut I got a glimpse of that light as our seminarian and dear friend Herley Mendez was ordained a Transitional Deacon. Deacon Herley will serve a parish in Connecticut in the Diocese of Bridgeport and there he will perform baptisms, weddings, and preach the Gospel. His journey has not been easy, he did not get to this place alone and first and foremost we give thanks to God for his parents, his siblings, and the many people who poured into him over the years. When I think of my own experience of leaving my home in North Babylon to study in the seminary in Huntington, it was certainly challenging and new, but driving up 231/Deer Park Avenue was not the same sacrifice Herley made. He left Columbia, the comfort of family, home, and even his native language to be a missionary, to proclaim the Gospel in this foreign land. He is a true light in the world.

As I reflect on this third week of Advent and prayerfully look upon our humble creche scene in the church, I often think of how Jesus entered this world into the "mess." That stable was cluttered, smelly, and not the ideal place for a baby to be born. That sounds like the reality of my life, my family, and the ministry I have been blessed to be entrusted with here at St. William – it can be messy at times. Maybe you too can identify with that as well, and we can feel unworthy for Christ to come to us. We feel the need to tidy everything up and make it perfect before we can welcome Jesus – we want to get our "house in order" – then we can let God in.

But the scriptures reveal to us that God is writing a different type of story with surprises and plot twists and turns. In the "desert and parched lands there will be abundant and blooming flowers, sorrow will be met with gladness and everlasting joy." The character of John the Baptist is not your typical "God-Guy" of that period, not a Pharisee, scribe, or a Sadducee. He was a bit of an odd duck, wearing camel fur and eating wild honey and locusts. But his goal was personal holiness, and a desire to lead others to God. He is the voice and messenger sent ahead to lay the foundation, clear the path, and prepare the way for the Lord. When John's disciples press Jesus to confirm if he is the Messiah, the One they have all been waiting for, He says look at the fruits of my ministry and work.

If we were to take a personal inventory of our own lives, or even our own disposition of our heart, what would be the results? December has the potential of being a time of running around, searching for Christmas sales, worrying about real issues like finances, bills, and the future of our children. There are some of us who have experienced loss and still have a bit of sadness in our heart. Still others are preparing to be hosts at Christmas and New Year celebrations and that causes anxiety. When Jesus is in our life, we can ask that same question - what do you hear and what do you see if God is at the center of our lives? Through overwhelming calm and peace, strong insight and decisions we become right-ordered and then all falls into place. How would you grade yourself right now?

Well, the good thing is Advent is not over and we have time to renew, restore, and refocus ourselves on the Light. John the Baptist is not the only one who is called to testify to the Light. Jesus is coming so let us make straight the paths into our souls, our families, and our parish by preparing for the arrival of the Savior. Certainly, with the decorations, shopping, baking, and songs, but also with quiet time, prayer, Mass, and confession. These next two weeks allow us to make the scriptures come alive, and Jesus more present when we become the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, we become the light and the hope in a world that is hurting. Gaudete – Rejoice!

In gratitude for your presence and generosity.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## ***Banns of Marriage***



### **Banns I**

Maria Nagel, St. William the Abbot & Tiago Pereira, St. Brigid, Westburry

### **Banns II**

Victoria Sapraine, St. William the Abbot & Peter Feingold, Seaford

## ***Pray for Those in the Military***

Lt. Ian Bayer (USN) - Lt. Rebecca Bayer (USN) - Lt. Ryan Bayer (USN) - Sgt. Craig Bianco (USA) - PFC Jake Cilento (USA) - PFC Ryan Daly (USMC) - Lt. Col. Michael DiPietro (USA) - LCpl Daniel Dugan (USMC) - Capt. Dana Duggan (USMC) - Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald (USN) - Capt. Michael Fitzgerald (USA) - Capt. Christopher J. Frasse (USA) - Capt. Matthew B. Frasse (USAF) - Lt. Col. John Kallo (USA) - STSC (SS) Thomas Kerley (USN) - CW2 Brian Kirby (USA) - Lt. Commander James Knudsen (USCG) - Capt. Caitlin Lee (USA) - Lt. Col Logan Lee (USA) - Major Philip Lettieri, MD (USA) - Lt. Cpl. Kevin Marshall (USMC) - Major Eamon G. McArdle (USA) - Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers (USAF) - Pvt. Juliana Miller (USA) - Col. Sean Morrow (USA) - Lt. Michael Napolitano (USN) - Lt. Michael O'Hara (USN) - MMN2 Emily Partridge (USN) - Spc. Brian Reip (USA) - Sgt. Donald Rogers (USA) - Airman Carlos Rosado (USAF) - Lt. Col. Thomas F. Shields (USAF) - Lt. Col. Michelle Simpson (USAF) - Commander Michael S. Slatley (USN) - SR Ella Tietz (USCG) - Daniel Timpanaro (USCG) - Lt. Col. Christopher J. Ustler (USA) - Cdr. Katherine Ustler-Lodispoto (USCG) - Michael Vietri (USN) - 2nd Lt. John Whidden (USMC) - Lt. Joseph Yahner (USA) - Pvt. Philip Zanardi (USAR)

## ***The Third Week of Advent: Joy***

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*This week we light 2 purple candles and the rose candle*

## ***Low Gluten Hosts Available at Mass***

For those who must avoid gluten in their diet, the parish has low gluten hosts available for Holy Communion. If you wish to receive such a host, please arrive prior to Mass and inform the priest and he will place your host in a pyx. Please sit in the south transept.

## ***Purgatorial Society***

James Chiofolo, Darlene Cusumano, John Dunne, George Jones, Howard Kelly, Kenneth Albert Krug, Kevin Maher, George McLaughlin, Richard Olsen, John F. Santora, Mitchell Seidler, Edwin A. Smith, Robert Sullivan, Anthony Verde, John E. Ferris, John Calandra, Vincent Casoria, Carl Riccobono, Ivan Koren, Joseph DeFazio, Donald Heffernan, Thomas C. Cox, Carolyn Tindell, Michelle Rossetti, Jennifer Cappellano, Matthew Brolly.

Rosario Agnello, Matthew Brolly, John Calandra, Pasquale Cocuzzo, Richard Grein, Lorraine Macomb, Maiorano Family, Patricia Mascuzzio, Josephine Masone, Douglas Meinhofer, Lucy Roberti, Vincent Salerno, Maria Santos, Fred T. Schmidt, Ben Ward, Kathleen M. Egan Wright, Patricia Masterson, Vito Marcone, Catherine Barry, Thomas Broderick, Ned McCormack.

Vincent Franco, John Kilgus, Joseph Longhway, George Jennerich, Micheline Giacalone

Giuseppa Carollo, Louise LaBella, Thomas Pignetti, Vincent Franco, Robert Egan, Paul Tuccillo, Paul Weston, Veronica M. Fields, Nancy Zimmerman

Victor Letellier, Jr., Elvira Moore

Susanne Boden, Frances Champion, Vito Cricentio, Gabrielle D'Orsi, Mary Beth Gang, Robert Rissmeyer, Roberta Rissmeyer, Ralph Joseph Ciccarelli, Sean Hartman, Eda-Kay Lipka, Vincenzo Valerio

Robert W. Long, Salvatore Suppa, Gladys Rivera, Benny Golino, William Lewald, John M. Stolfi, Diane Cesarz, Dolores Santos Rasalan, Kelley Chaffee.

Rose Kees, Sr. Veronica Sloane, Cara Lynn McGuinness, Kurt DeMartino

Michael A. Diloreto, Benito Golino, James R. Hall, Maryellen Hillman, Alfred Lewan, Robert Long, Michael Murray, Rose Marie Ripi, Edward Schiffina, George S. Smith, Daisy Montone, Robert West, Gloria Frascione, Frances Josephine Egan.



# *Christmas Mass Schedule*

CHRISTMAS EVE:

4pm | 5:30pm | 8:30pm | 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY:

8am | 9:30am | 11am | 12:30pm

***Opportunities to  
Receive the Sacrament  
of Reconciliation this  
Advent***

**Monday - Saturday:  
7:15am - 8:20am**

**Saturday:  
3:45pm - 4:50pm**

**Monday, December 22nd  
2pm - 9pm**

***O Come, O Come  
Emmanuel!***

We invite you to help us light our  
Advent Wreath before each Mass  
during the season!

If you and your family, friends, or ministry  
group would like to participate, please  
email us at  
[priests@stwilliam.org](mailto:priests@stwilliam.org)







# CHRISTMAS MEMORIALIZATIONS

Item Available	# Needed	Cost	Quantity	Total
Auditorium Altar & Flowers	1	\$575		
Red Pointsettias	51	\$45		
White Pointsettias	41	\$45		

Total Enclosed

*All memorializations are first-come, first-served.*

*Memorial names and donors will be listed in the bulletin and on the parish website the week of Christmas.*

*Please return to the Rectory with a check made payable to St. William the Abbot or complete the form online by visiting [stwilliam.org/cbristmas2025](http://stwilliam.org/cbristmas2025)*

Your Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Name for Listing:

Choose One: In Honor of ☐

In Memory of ☐

ADULT MEN  
ARE INVITED  
TO JOIN US  
AT THE

**Men's Advent  
Prayer Group**



LAST  
MEETING -  
SATURDAY  
DEC 20<sup>TH</sup> AT  
6:30AM IN  
THE ABBEY

## Faith Formation

Fr. Joe and Mrs. Walsh prepared an Advent Prayer Service for our Level 8 students this week. It was the perfect opportunity for the students to slow down and prepare their hearts as we wait for the birth of Jesus.



# NEW YEAR

## Ball Drop Raffle



SINGLE  
ENTRY:  
\$50

THREE  
ENTRIES:  
\$125

ENTRIES WILL BE ASSIGNED BALL  
NUMBERS AND THE FIRST 3 BALLS  
DROPPED CLOSEST TO THE TARGET WIN  
CASH PRIZES BASED ON NUMBER OF  
RAFFLES SOLD

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR  
MINISTRIES IN THE NEW YEAR

NOW SHOWING  
CHRISTMAS MOVIES  
IN THE ABBEY

THU DEC 18 - 11AM  
"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"



BRING YOUR FAVORITE SNACKS AND DRINKS!

THU DEC 18 - 6:30PM  
"THE STAR"



A SPECIAL SHOWING FOR FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL-AGED  
CHILDREN TO LEARN THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY AS  
TOLD BY BOAZ THE DONKEY & HIS FRIENDS

BRING SNACKS & DRINKS FOR YOUR FAMILY!



## ***Our Busy Weekend***

We thank everyone who braved the cold last week to join us for our Creche Blessing and Tree Lighting and Christmas Fair!



### ***Congratulations, Deacon Herley!***

Last weekend, our parish seminarian, Herley Mendez, was ordained a Transitional Deacon in the Diocese of Bridgeport as he continues his journey towards his priestly ordination this summer. As a Transitional Deacon, Deacon Herley will assist his assigned parish with baptisms, weddings, and preaching at Masses.



In this season when we rightfully remember and honor Mary's "yes," we also honor St. Joseph's quiet strength and his "yes" to God's plan by inviting our SWS Dads to spend some time making Christmas ornaments with their little ones.





### ***This Weekend's Music Selections***

We invite you to participate by using the song numbers below and the missals found in the pews.

Entrance Hymn: "O Come O Come Emmanuel" (#39)

Offertory Hymn: "Maranatha" (#68)

Communion Hymn: "A Voice Cries Out" (#46)

Communion Meditation: "The King Shall Come"

Recessional Hymn: "People Look East" (#43)

Our Children's and Adult Choirs are back in session - visit [stwilliam.org/music-ministry](http://stwilliam.org/music-ministry) for more information on joining!

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:1-2*

### ***Parish Social Ministry***

#### ***Pantry Needs***

Coffee - Canned Fruit - Salad Dressing - Raisins - Pretzels

#### ***Thank You Adopt-a-Family Donors!***

Thank you to all of our parishioners that participated in this year's Christmas Adopt-a-Family Program. Thanks to your generosity all families in need were adopted this Advent season! Over the next week we will distribute the items collected to our families in need. In addition, your generous food and gift card donations will provide everyone with the items they need to make a lovely Christmas dinner. We are truly blessed to have the support of our Parish as we minister to those in need, and we could not do it without your support! God bless you and your families!



#### ***St. William's CYO Sharks Donate Christmas Stockings***

The CYO Sharks swim team of St. William the Abbot donated 75 Christmas stockings to the Social Ministry, to be distributed to our homebound parishioners and those in need. Stockings contained small gift items, snacks and even some greeting cards from the Shark team members! Thank you CYO Sharks for all of your effort to create these special gifts for our parishioners in need, we are so grateful!



#### ***Christmas Gift Bag Donations***

This week parishioner Nancy Roche donated 14 holiday gift bags to the Social Ministry. The bags contained treats such as baking mixes, teas, ornaments, mugs, decorative housewares and candy. All were packaged in decorated Christmas bags and ready to go out to the needy and homebound. We are so grateful to Nancy for her thoughtfulness and generosity!

#### ***Home Heating Assistance Now Available***

Applications for obtaining HEAP benefits are now being accepted! HEAP is the Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps low-income individuals and families pay for the cost of heating their homes. Eligibility and benefits are based on multiple criteria such as income, household size and heating source. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year. This benefit is \$900 for oil or propane gas heat, or \$400 for natural gas or electric heat. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>

#### ***Long Island PSEG Discounts***

Low income households may be eligible for the PSEG Long Island Household Assistance Program. This program provides a monthly electric bill discount of \$45 or more! To learn more and view full eligibility requirements, visit <https://www.psegliny.com/financialassistance>. Note that if you enroll in HEAP, you are automatically eligible for this program.

#### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday December 16. The meeting will occur at 10am in the Abbey. This ministry knits and crochets lap robes, blankets, hats, scarves, and other items for the sick and needy of our community. Yarn is provided, and new members at any skill level are always welcome!







stwilliam.org

f @stwilliamabbot

Scan here to make a one-time donation  
by Credit Card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or CashApp

Or visit  
stwilliam.org/ways-to-give



**Rev. Joseph H. Fitzgerald**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Michael Edathil**  
*Associate Pastor*

priests@stwilliam.org

#### **Deacons**

Dcn. John Lynch      Dcn. Michael Metzdorff  
Dcn. Anthony Cedrone (Retired)  
information@stwilliam.org

#### **Rectory Staff**

Judy Goldman  
*Business Manager*  
jgoldman@stwilliam.org

Sue McCormick  
*Office Manager*  
information@stwilliam.org

Kate Walsh  
*Development & Operations*  
kwalsh@stwilliam.org

#### **Office of Childhood Faith Formation**

Laura Walsh  
*Director*  
faithformation@stwilliam.org | 516-783-2528  
stwilliam.org/faith-formation

#### **Parish Social Ministry**

Allison Marro  
*Director*  
socialministry@stwilliam.org | 516-679-8532  
stwilliam.org/social-ministry

#### **Music Ministry**

Jennifer Hegmann-Palminteri  
*Director*  
information@stwilliam.org

#### **Rectory Information**

2000 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
516-785-1266

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12:30pm, 1pm - 4pm  
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 12:30pm

*If there is an emergency where someone is critically ill or injured  
and needs a priest outside of office hours, please call 516-312-7361*



#### **St. William the Abbot School**

Elizabeth Bricker      Kasey Grasso  
*Principal      Assistant Principal*

516-785-6784

stwilliamtheabbot.net

*A 70 Year Legacy of Excellence - Nursery through 8th Grade*

#### **Our Seminarian**

Deacon Herley Mendez  
*SWA Parishioner*

*Please pray for our Seminarians and all those  
discerning the priesthood and religious life*

#### **Pastoral Council**

Chris Blankley - Fred Duemig - Barbara Geraghty  
Lara Klein - Kelly Koster - Peter Tietz - Thomas Ward

#### **Finance Council**

Rita Defendini - Debra Eannel - Robert Gerhard - John Kaley\*  
Tom Kiley - Ed Lettieri\* - Michael Turturro  
\*Parish Trustee

#### **Resources**

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)  
ocia@stwilliam.org | stwilliam.org/ocia

Baptisms & Weddings at St. William the Abbot  
stwilliam.org/sacraments

Register as a St. William the Abbot Parishioner  
stwilliam.org/i-am-new

Catholic High Schools of Long Island  
chsee.org

Diocese of Rockville Centre  
drvc.org

Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand  
formed.org

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation: Financial Aid for Catholic Schools  
tomorrowshopefoundation.org

#### **The Diocese of Rockville Centre**

*Fifth Bishop of Rockville Centre*  
Most Reverend John O. Barres

*Auxiliary Bishops*  
Most Rev. Robert J. Coyle  
Most Rev. Luis Miguel Romero Fernandez, M.Id  
Most Rev. Andrzej Zglejszewski  
Most Rev. John C. Dunne (Retired)

*Bishop Emeritus*  
Most Reverend William Murphy

drvc.org