

## December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Weekly Schedule



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 - 8:15am Saturday: 3:45pm - 4:30pm

#### Adoration

Monday - Saturday: 7:30am - 8:15am First Friday of the Month: 9am - 5pm

#### **Private Prayer**

Monday - Friday: 7:15am - 6pm



...An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

## **Mass Intentions**

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022

Marek Bak Gus Interrante Bridget Pulver Anthony DiPadova

Monday, Dec. 19, 2022 Ann Zorn

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022

Collective Intentions
Francis & Ellen O'Brien
Ryan Lacertosa
Carmela Tisi
Donna Locicero

Wed., Dec. 21, 2022
Allison Basile

Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022

Rose Russo

Friday, Dec. 23, 2022

**Collective Intentions** 

Teresa DiLeo
Joseph Zorn
Michael E. Powers
Patricia Mink

**Saturday**, Dec. 24, 2022

John Scanlon (Church)
Grace Magrino (Aud.)
Michael Litras
Joanna Wilson
Suzanne Randazzo

## Pray for the Deceased

Michael B. Bartlett Neil J. Conway Frances H. Interrante John "Jack" P. Serio

## Pray for the Sick

Eric Thomas Guzzo Kristin Valera-Goetze Michael McGillicuddy John Michael Primavera John Reynolds Ann Marie Canale Adrienne Harker
Robin Julian
Lesa Laurence
Lea Meade
Keith Gorton
Richard Fedyk

## Wine and Hosts

The Wine and Hosts used at Mass this week have been donated in loving memory of Marie, James and Asumpta Parisi with love from Nancy and Michael Haas

## Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle used at Mass this week has been donated in loving memory of Anthony DiPadova from Lou and Pat DiPadova

## Advent Week 4 - Ask for a Sign

Well, my sisters and brothers, we are one step, and one week closer to the Birth of Christ. Christmas is always packed with awe and wonder – whether in our Catholic faith or in the secular world. This weekend's readings are no different, they are filled with wonder, signs, prophecies, and dreams. In the Fitzgerald house growing up we loved the TV Christmas specials, the classic records with music, and tales, and stories of long, long ago. But probably my favorite thing would be when my mom or dad would read to us bedtime Christmas stories. I did go to bed with sugar plums, and train tracks, and candy canes, and footballs, and full Christmas stockings dancing in my head. But at the end of all those stories mom and dad would pray with us and reset what Christmas was all about... the miraculous arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we enter the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Church has really gifted us with the full experience and long version of this season of preparation. We get to light ALL the candles and they have illuminated the hope of Christ's light to us all – and that is a good sign!!! So often we are looking for signs – but we are not always aware – or paying attention to those happening right in front of us. I was able to experience beautiful moments of grace with some of our 8th Grade students at the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, as well as this week's St. Lucy candlelight Holy Hour. I have seen the subtle sign of God's presence in some of our catechists teaching faith formation week in and week out, and how some of our parishioners pause with their family before the creche in front of the rectory. We can get so caught up in the bad news being broadcast on the TV networks or look a little deeper and see how the Lord is trying to break through.

I think at different points in our lives we do ask God for signs either for direction, confirmation of things, or for a surety of his presence. I remember when I was thinking about becoming a priest I said, "God I'll do this, I'll give up everything and follow you, but you need to give me some sign and make this clear for me that this is what you want me to do." And He did in so many ways by random people affirming certain God-given gifts and talents and revealing how they could "see" me serving the Lord. Where have the signs been present in your life? Have you been so rushed that you have missed them – we have one week left before Christmas – how will God pierce through what has become an unbearably busy and distracting time? I encourage you to pause and ponder.

Saint Joseph gives us an example to follow and be inspired by. First, it's essential that we ponder the story as it happened and be inspired by God's individual plan by which He came to earth in the Incarnation and lived in a family – with Mary and Joseph. The "righteous carpenter" from Nazareth becomes an inspiration for our own callings in life. Joseph inspires us to face any and every mystery in life that we encounter with the utmost trust in God – always a tough one for me. But he shows us that God's ways are always far beyond our own vision and plans that we put forth. Very often in life, God will call us to walk an unknown and mysterious path – and we may question or doubt that movement in our hearts. Was that really God's voice and direction? Life does not always make perfect sense from a purely rational perspective. Very often, we must allow our human reason to be informed and led by God's supernatural plan – to discern and listen to the Spirit and respond with God's grace. For each of us, this mysterious path will be different, as it was for Mary, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, and the Wise Men. But if we are to walk by the same faith that Saint Joseph had, then we must always be willing to see the signs or dreams that the Lord may place on our hearts and allow God's revealing Word to clarify them.

My friends, as we begin the Fourth Week of Advent, we focus ever more directly upon the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago. The scriptures present us with the familiar words of the angel of the Lord who spoke to Joseph in a dream: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." The Lord beckons us too – do not be afraid to take a step and grow in your faith – and more importantly to bring Jesus and the Holy Family into your own homes. It means that we are to strive to live as Holy Families – to live as a contradiction to the noise and distractions of the culture. To not be caught up in the commercialism of this time, but to make it a true season of light and hope centered around this Christ Child.

Saint Joseph recognized and read the signs, and simply responded "yes." Practically it did not make any sense – but his "yes" changed everything – in his heart, his family, and ultimately the world. Be attentive this week to the signs of God trying to enter and penetrate your heart with His love. I want to encourage you to be bold and ask for a sign from God, but then - be docile, ponder the signs, and when the Lord presents Himself – simply make room for Jesus and the Holy Family to enter into your home!

Have a Blessed and Peaceful Week



Curé of Ars - Maria Regina - Our Lady of Lourdes - St. Barnabas the Apostle St. Frances de Chantal - St. Rose of Lima - St. William the Abbot

# MULTI-PARISH EVENING OF CONFESSION

Monday, December 19th at 7pm St. William the Abbot

## Pray for Those in the Military

#### **USMC** -

First Lt. Dana Duggan L.Cpl. John Mosier

#### **US Army -**

Capt. Caitlin M. Lee
CW2 Brian Kirby
Major Eamon G. McArdle
Spc. Brian Reip
Sgt. Donald Rogers
Major Christopher James Ustler
Major Kurtis Unger

#### **US Air Force -**

Capt. Matthew B. Frasse Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers AIC William Hughes Major Thomas F. Shields

#### **US Navy** -

Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald
Ryan Bayer, Ensign
Rebecca Bayer, Ensign
STS1 Thomas Kerley
Lt. jg Michael O'Hara
MMN2 Emily Partridge
Commander Michael Sean Slatley
Lt. jq Michael Napolitano
Michael Vietri

#### **US Coast Guard -**

Lt. James Knudsen
Daniel Timpanaro

LT. Commander Katherine Ustler
Frank Pristera

#### US Army -

Sgt. Craig Bianco
SPC Anthony Caputo
Capt. Michael DiPietro
Capt. Michael Fitzgerald
Capt. Christopher J. Frasse
Capt. Logan Lee
Lt. Col. John Kallo
Capt. Caitlin M. Lee

#### The Fourth Week of Advent: Love

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, your greatest gift of love to your people. Fill my heart with such love, opening my heart to accept your great love for me.

Overflow my heart with your love, so I may pour it out into the world.

Amen.

This week, you will light all the candles on your Advent Wreath

## Wedding Banns

#### **Banns III**

Natalie Gramegna, St. William the Abbot & John Carl Henderson, Holy Family,

## **Baptisms**

Please welcome the following children who were baptized this past weekend:

Tyler Fox
Michaela Goldsmith
Charlotte Imbriano
Justin McCavanagh
Amelia Norris
Jack Sostowski



# Mass Schedule

## Christmas Eve

(no 8:30am mass)

4pm - Church 4pm - Auditorium 5:30pm - Church 8:30pm - Church 11pm - Church

## Christmas Day

8am - Church 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Auditorium 11am - Church 11am - Auditorium 12:30pm - Church

WE WILL FOLLOW OUR REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE ON DECEMBER 31ST AND JANUARY 1ST

STWILLIAM.ORG/ADVENT2022



# Christmas Memorializations

Item	Needed	Cest Que	intity, Total
Christmas Tree - 12'-15' (Rectory Lawn)		sold	w.
Christmas Trees - 9'-11' (Sanctuary)		sold	
Straw and Greenery for Nativity Creche		sold	
Christmas Trees - 8'-9' (Vestibule)	sold		
Christmas Wreaths - 48" (Vestibule & Choir Loft)		sold	
Garland Roping (Choir Loft)		sold	
Christmas Trees - 5'-6' (Creche)		sold	
Christmas Wreaths - 32" (Church Interior)	(	sold	
Christmas Wreaths - 12" (Exterior Doors)		sold	
Red Pointsettias - 6"	44	\$ 30	
White Pointsettias - 6"	18	\$ 30	
White Orchid Cyclamen - 6"	10	\$ 30	
White Calandiva - 4.5"	65	\$ 25	

All memorializations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO RECTORY WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT

Contact Name:

Contact Phone:

Email Address:

Name for Memorial Listing:

## This week at St. William the Abbot...



Advent Candlelight Holy Hour and celebration of the Feast of St. Lucy



Fr. Eric Fasano blessed the Bambinelli at masses last weekend



Our 8th Grade Boys took on St. Mary's



2nd Graders made birthday cards for Baby Jesus in Faith Formation



Fr. Joe had a visit from our SWS Nursery and Pre-K students and read "The Littlest Angel" to them



## Raffle Entries: \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Email Address:

Raffle Entries: \$20 each or 6 for \$100			7 4		
The quilt will be on display in the Church Vestibule until the winner is announced.	×	令	A Paragraph of the Control of the Co	\(\frac{1}{2}\)	0
Winner will be announced on December 21st!  Please return raffle tickets and check total made payable to St. William the to the Rectory by 12n on Monday 12/2	Abbot	+			
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Please return to Rectory with Check by 12/19 - Entries: \$2	20 each or 6 for \$100	Please return	to Rectory with Chec	k by 12/19 - Entries	: \$20 each or 6 for \$100
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Name:		Name: _			
Telephone #:		Telephone #:			

Please return to Rectory with Check by 12/19 - Entries: \$20 each or 6 for \$100 Please return to Rectory with Check by 12/19 - Entries: \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## St. William the Abbot School

The Second Graders in Ms. Milteer's class are getting ready for Christmas. They completed their Advent wreath and wrote what Advent means to them. Some children wrote about getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth while others wrote about going to Church and seeing the candles lit every Sunday. Our Christmas countdown has begun!







Good Old St. Nick visited Mrs. Frank's class and dropped off some treats. Happy St. Nicholas Day!











## Parish Social Ministry

## 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 of our families 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 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. Williams CYO Sbarks Donate Cbristmas Stockings

The CYO Sharks swim team of St. William the Abbot donated 48 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!

## Poinsettias for our Homebound

This week the Eucharistic Ministers delivered poinsettias from the Parish to their homebound parishioners for Christmas. Each Homebound Eucharistic Minister delivered a poinsettia to their parishioner, including 26 deliveries at Cedar Cove done by EM Keith Glastal and volunteer David Lorenzo! We are so grateful to all of the Parish's Eucharistic Ministers and volunteers for helping us bring joy to the homebound this Advent season!



## **Cbristmas Gift Bag Donations**

This week parishioner Nancy Roche donated 26 holiday gift bags to the Social Ministry. 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 with our clients' food pantry orders. We are so grateful to Nancy for her thoughtfulness and generosity!

## Home Heating Assistance Available

Applications for obtaining HEAP benefits are currently 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. You could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. For more information or to apply, visit https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/

## Looking to Donate Used Items?

We have updated the Parish Social Ministry section of the St. William the Abbot Parish website. We list multiple donation resources locally for your furniture, clothing, housewares and more! Check us out at www.stwilliam.org/social-ministry for more information!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday January 3rd. 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!



Christmas 2022

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In union with our Holy Father Pope Francis, and in a non-judgmental spirit of mercy, humility and charity, I invite everyone who will be present at our Christmas Masses, or watching our Christmas Masses via the Catholic Faith Network or CBS, or not present at all: If your life has been far from the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist, I invite you with Pope Francis to return.

I invite you to experience the power and liberation of Christ's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and to cross the bridge into the full practice of your Catholic Faith through a radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and an ever-deepening love for the Holy Eucharist.

Perhaps you are not a Catholic and yet have some mysterious attraction to the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist.

You are not alone! Many saints – I think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the pioneering American Catholic educator and convert – had the same experience and were drawn to enter the Church through their intuitive experience of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in our parish churches! Be open to the Eucharistic movement of the Holy Spirit in your life!

Our celebration of Christmas 2022 occurs this year as every Catholic diocese, every Catholic parish, every Catholic hospital, university, and institution in the United States is engaged in an evangelizing *Eucharistic Revival*.

What do we mean by the phrase "Eucharistic Revival" and why is it so important for our celebration of Christmas?

What does a love for the Eucharist and an openness to being a 21st Century Eucharistic missionary have to do with our celebration of Christmas 2022?

Pope Francis points out the relationship between the Birth of Christ and the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. The very word Bethlehem means "house of Bread."

Pope Francis states: "Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a *manger*. It is as if he wanted to say: 'Here I am, as your food.' He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: 'Take and eat. This is my body.' (Matthew 26:26) The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life,

we can be *reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the 'house of bread,' Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God's family, brothers and sisters to our neighbors. Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity. The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Revelation 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life."

Eucharistic Revival, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of "Eucharistic Amazement" and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means that we understand deeply that every Mass has a cosmic significance, and every Mass is celebrated on the Altar of the world – the Altar of Ukraine and every war torn and injustice-ridden area of our world.

Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival in our Catholic schools means the cultivation of a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass on the part of our teachers, our staff and our families.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI's insight that every period of Church reform and effective Catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.<sup>2</sup>

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and his rebirth in our hearts and families at Christmas, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ's Eucharistic presence.

We pray that each of us could be Divine Mercy instruments of bringing many, many people back to a full fidelity to the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are being called to be intentional, compassionate, understanding and listening Eucharistic missionaries.

Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the love of the Christ child and the love of the Holy Family light your remaining steps on earth and light your path to Heaven and Eternal Life.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre

Sh O Barres

Pope Francis Homily for Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Pope Benedict XVI's 2017 Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum Caritatis 6: "Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord's eucharistic presence among his people."

## Consider Automated Giving

Automated giving provides a steady stream of support. It is a great way to manage your Sunday Offerings without the worry of missing a payment and the worry of forgetting your weekly envelope.

We are able to offer the ability of having Sunday Offerings deposited directly from your checking or savings account into the St. William's account. This would apply only to weekly collections, not to any second collections, such as Holy Days, Catholic Relief Services, etc.

The form to begin this process can be printed, filled out and mailed to the Rectory. Please be sure to attached a voided check.

	Authorization Agreement for Auto	mated Giving
	Abbot, 2000 Jackson Avenue, Seaford, NY Savings ( ) account indicated below and the nount.	
Amount \$	Monthly on the fifteenth of the month	1.
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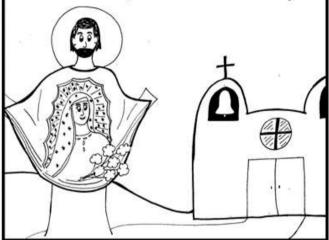


Mary, the Mother of Jesus, appeared to Saint Juan Diego and asked him to build a church. Saint Juan Diego asked the bishop for help to build the church, but the Bishop wanted proof that Juan Diego had seen Mary. Mary told him to pick roses for the Bishop. This doesn't seem special—but it was snowy outside.

Roses don't grow in the snow!

Saint Juan Diego carried the roses in his tilma, his coat. When he showed the roses to the bishop, there was a beautiful picture of Mary on his tilma! That picture is a special image of Mary called...

## Our Lady of Guadalupe



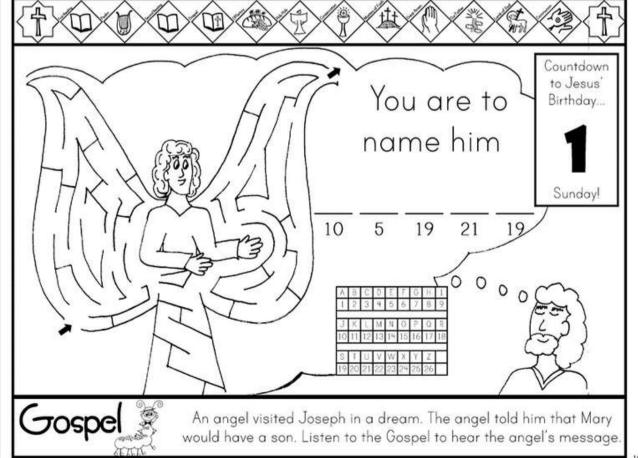
Year A. Fourth Sunday of Advent



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Which candles are lit today on the Advent wreath? Color this wreath to match the one at your church.

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## www.stwilliam.org

## (f) @stwilliamabbot

#### - Pastor -

#### Rev. Joseph H. Fitzgerald

priests@stwilliam.org

#### - Deacons -

Dcn. Anthony Cedrone Dcn. John Lynch Dcn. Steven McClernon Dcn. Michael Metzdorff Dcn. Joseph Tumbarello

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

#### - Faith Formation -

Sr. Joan Klimski, OP Director Maria Paguaga Office Assistant

faithformation@stwilliam.org / 516-783-2528

#### - Social Ministry -

Allison Marro Director

socialministry@stwilliam.org / 516-679-8532 www.stwilliam.org/social-ministry

#### - Music Ministry -

Jennifer Lynde Director

#### - Our Seminarians -



Joseph Lettieri



Herley Mendez SWA Parishioner

Please pray for our Seminarians and for all those discerning religious life

#### - Rectory Information -

2000 Jackson Avenue Seaford, NY 11783

Office: 516-785-1266

information@stwilliam.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm Saturday: 9am - 3pm Sunday: 9am - 1pm

#### - St. William the Abbot School -



## Elizabeth Bricker

Principal

2001 Jackson Avenue Seaford, NY 11783

Office: 516-785-6784

www.stwilliamtheabbot.net

#### - Emergency Line -

If there is an emergency in which you need to contact a priest immediately outside of office hours, please call 516-312-7361

#### - Pastoral Council -

Cbris Blankley - Fred Duemig - Barbara Geragbty Lara Klein - Kelly Koster - Trisba Mullen Peter Teitz - Tbomas Ward

#### - Finance Committee -

Rita Defendini<sup>e</sup> - Robert Gerbard - John Kaley<sup>e</sup> Tom Kiley - Ed Lettieri \*Parish trustees

#### - Other Resources -

Bible in a Year Podcast ascensionpress.com

Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand formed.org

Life Teen Youth Ministry lifeteen.com