

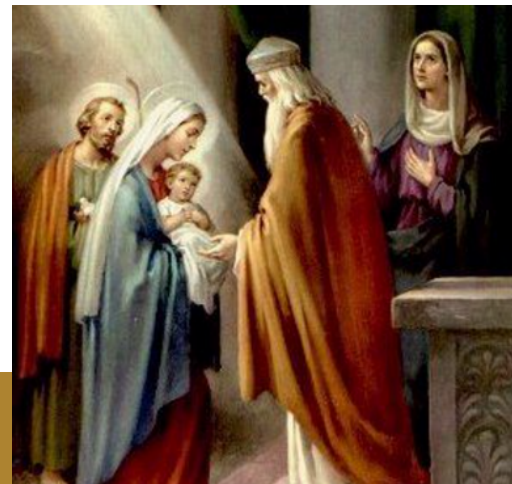
# St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 27, 2020



"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted". Luke 2:34

### Rectory Office Hours

The Rectory will remain closed until further notice. If you need to contact the Rectory please email your request.

[information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org)

### Parish Information

Office: 516.785.1266  
2000 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
[stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org)

The bread and wine used at mass this week  
were donated in loving memory of

*Buzz Santini*

from Bev Santini.

### Pray for the Sick

Nicholas Ortiz

### Temporary Rectory Hours

Picking up an ornament or missal?

The Rectory will be open

**Monday, December 28 - Tuesday, December 29**  
from 9am - 4pm.

The Mass Intentions are celebrated each day by a member of the Clergy, in either a public Mass or private Mass. Please be advised the current Mass schedule may not allow the family to be present for all Mass Intentions celebrated.

### Mass Schedule

#### Daily Mass

**Monday - Friday 8:30am**

#### Weekend Mass

**Saturday 8:30am & 5pm**

**Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 12pm**

The Presider Schedule can be found on [stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org).

### Mass Intentions

**Monday, December 28, 2020**

Lois Gallagher

**Tuesday, December 29, 2020**

Ana Camp

**Wednesday, December 30, 2020**

Lois Gallagher

**Thursday, December 31, 2020**

John & Mary Marinello

Ed Tomczyk

Mary Ann Toscano

Thomas Quinn (LIV)

Lois Gallagher

**Friday, January 1, 2021**

Gennaro & Isabella Panessa

People of St. William's

David Jendras

**Saturday, January 2, 2021**

Purgatorial Society

People of St. William's

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

Janet Tierney

Lois Gallagher

Donald Clark

Robert Allison

Al Cassillo

Jeff Baker

Mary Spiess

## “Spirits of Christmas Past”

I use the reference from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, but more a play on words - “Spirits of Christmas Past.” So, in the Spirit of Christmas past, I have had the great gift of quiet time in prayer to reflect on now almost 50 years of my life. My earliest Christmases were in Brooklyn, celebrating in the apartment of my grandparents on Shore Road. My heart becomes full to think of being with family, and the miracle of getting close to 35 people in those few rooms together for a meal, prayer, old stories, and of course Santa Claus would arrive. It was my first experience of a ‘kids table,’ and along with my cousins launching ourselves on their bed covered with a pile of coats, singing carols, and just sitting at the feet of my grandfather as he would tell stories of Christmases long, long ago. At the end of the night, we would leave to drive back to Long Island, and I remember the drive home on the Southern State Parkway and looking up in the sky with hopes of seeing Santa and his sleigh.

Christmas 2020 will be perhaps a little different experience for all of us. My hope is that even in this time of the pandemic you all were able to either in person or through the gift of technology connect as a family. Christmas and New Year's allows for the miracle of bringing family together, cross generations, young and old. If we take a moment to think about why we meet at this time, it's simple. It's not just tradition, it's because of a person – Jesus Christ, the Lord. He joins young and old and brings generations closer. He is the source of love that can unite families, that allows us to let our guard down, in the hope of even when you are physically separated, or even in disagreement, we can be joined in faith, hope, and love. Those intimate moments are so special for us to remember, and it allows the young and the old to unite as one family. Whether it be listening to classic Christmas songs from Crosby, Sinatra, or the Carpenters; or learning how to play one of the modern video games – we can all say, “and so this is Christmas.”

But like in the Dickens Classic we have the opportunity to look ahead to Christmas future as well. What are our hopes and dreams for 2021 and beyond? To think we are getting closer to celebrating our 95th and then 100th Anniversary of St. William's being established as a parish. What do we hope for our posterity? How do we not only sustain, but grow and transform this into a community that is welcoming and engaging not only for those who are currently here, but who will come in the future? In conversations with so many of you – in the deepest part of your hearts you desire your children and grandchildren to more than just check the box and come to mass, but to have a relationship with Jesus and His Church. At a different time, it was enough to send our kids to CCD or even Catholic school and the faith would stick. But now we are competing with distractions like social media, Netflix, Amazon everything, and “over-activity” in sports and other hobbies and interests. To be honest, most of those things are presented well, have high quality with Hollywood graphics and Madison Avenue flair, engage relationship and community, and are more “fun” than going to Church. So, what are we to do?

In “A Christmas Carol,” Mr. Scrooge has the opportunity to look back over his past life, and then adjusts better serve his future and other people in his life. He makes courageous steps that are so radically different that people think he is a little crazy – running up and down the streets wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, buying the turkey for Bob Cratchet's family, reconnecting with his nephew Fred, and of course who can forget the gratitude of Tiny Tim? The Pandemic has allowed us to look at the ministries and ways we have come together as a parish. Many were doing fairly well, but we must look at how we can connect and engage whole families – cross generational – which allows us to engage the entire parish. We must look at our foundational ministries and continue to build off of them and grow into the future – but also look to see what ministries we do not currently have in the parish. If we were to look at SWA 5-10 years from now – how are we serving our senior citizens, daily mass goers, family ministry, or youth and young adult? How are we doing that in such a way that connects the “whole family” – where there is not a ‘kids table’ or an ‘adults table’ but one family around the altar of the Eucharist and growing in faith...together?

Much to think about, much to grapple with, and much to be hopeful for in 2021. I pray that all of us enter into this New Year with the same enthusiasm of the converted Mr. Scrooge – who was able to transform not only his life, but also ALL those people he came in contact with. That is actually the Mission of all followers of Jesus – to not only be disciples, but disciple makers. I ask that Our Lord and Our Lady guide and protect us through this Christmas Season and into the New Year. And in the words of Tiny Tim – “God Bless us, Everyone!”

In gratitude for your presence and generosity.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr. Joe".



## Safety Protocols

As more of you are returning back to in-person Mass, we want to re-emphasize that all of our safety protocols are still in place. Please allow the ushers to seat you - they have been carefully trained in our seating arrangement that will enable us to get the maximum number of worshippers seated in the Sanctuary while maintaining social distancing.

## Arrive Early & Wear Your Mask



Also, we do ask that everyone arrive early so that we can everyone seated before the start of Mass. We ask that all parishioners wear their mask covering their nose and mouth at all times while inside the church.

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31

5:00 pm

&

Friday, January 1

9:00 am & 12:00 Noon

## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 2

5:00 pm

&

Sunday, January 3

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:00 Noon

## Faith Formation



Bryson Richko worked on one of his lessons using a Manger.

Today we celebrate The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Holy Family represents the model family.

Joseph and Mary could not wait to show Jesus, who is the son of God. They were given the feeling of knowing that they did what they were supposed to do for God. Joseph was asked by God to become the Father figure of his son and Virgin Mary was asked to be the handmaid of the Lord, Jesus. At times, we need to do things that we feel "no I can't do this", but then you realize you can. Virgin Mary and Joseph must have been scared and possibly thinking maybe this is not the right thing to do, but deep down inside they knew it was correct to do what God asked of them. Sometimes, our emotions get the best of us, but we must remember to leave it in God's hands and to trust him just like Mary and Joseph did. We all need to take examples from them to always believe and trust in God, for he is always there for us, even when you feel he is not. When you get that feeling of having peace, that is God giving that to you. It is the calmness we receive within just like Mary and Joseph received, even when things got very tough for them. Continue to pray and ask for God's guidance for he will always help you. Peace to All...

**Wishing You A Healthy  
Happy New Year!**

Our Parents of Faith Formation have been emailed new links for them to receive the work. The Families have been emailing to us the completed work and pictures. If you have not received the new link, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 516-783-2528.



## Reconciliation

Reconciliation is offered Monday - Saturday  
from 7:00 am - 8:30 am.

You may also schedule your time for  
confession by emailing  
[priests@stwilliam.org](mailto:priests@stwilliam.org).

## 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 oyx.

## CONTACT THE PRIESTS

Please send your email to [priests@stwilliam.org](mailto:priests@stwilliam.org)  
to contact Fr. Joe, Fr. James or Fr. Collins directly.

## CONTACT THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Please send your email to [pastoralcouncil@stwilliam.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@stwilliam.org).

## QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Please send your email to [igomez@stwilliam.org](mailto:igomez@stwilliam.org).

## CONTACT FAITH FORMATION

Please send your email to [faithformation@stwilliam.org](mailto:faithformation@stwilliam.org)  
or contact the office directly at (516) 783-2528.

## CONTACT SOCIAL MINISTRY

Please send your email to [socialministry@stwilliam.org](mailto:socialministry@stwilliam.org)  
or contact the office directly at (516) 679-8532.

## CONTACT MUSIC MINISTRY

Please send your email to [mgeorgetti@stwilliam.org](mailto:mgeorgetti@stwilliam.org).

## QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTORY

Please send your email to [information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org).

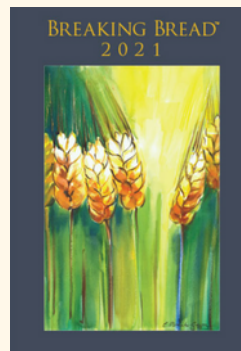
## CONTACT THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Please send your email to [jgoldman@stwilliam.org](mailto:jgoldman@stwilliam.org).

## CONTACT THE SCHOOL St. William the Abbot School



Office: 516.785.1266  
2001 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
[stwilliamtheabbot.net](http://stwilliamtheabbot.net)  
(516) 785-6784



At this time we are able to offer the sale of individual missals for \$10 per missal. Please bring a check for \$10 payable to St. William the Abbot or \$10 exact cash to the rectory. There will be no change for cash purchases. We have a limited number at this time, so it is a first come first served basis. Please come to the rectory door Monday – Friday from 9am-5pm to purchase your missal.

## LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

The Monday - Friday 8:30am Daily Mass and the Sunday  
12pm Mass can be viewed on the parish website

**[stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org)**

## Food Donations

The food donations bins will no longer be located in the Church. Please bring all donations directly to Parish Social Ministry Office, the church no longer has donation bins. The Social Ministry office is located South of the Church.

**Monday - Friday**

**9:30am - 4:00pm**

**Sunday**

**9:00am - 12:00pm**

## Bereavement Ministry

Although we cannot hold actual Bereavement Ministry sessions at this time due to the restrictions of meetings, we want you to know that we care about the grief you are experiencing. Let us help you take the walk in your grief journey. Trained facilitators are available to support you. Our mission is to help you to find peace in the midst of dealing with your loss. Please call Parish Social Ministry at (516) 679-8532.

## Homebound

Do you know someone who is homebound or lonely? Please let us know so we can reach out to them in the spirit of Christ. Perhaps they need someone to food shop for them. Please call (516) 679-8532.

## Caring for the Caregiver

Although our program cannot currently meet we are reaching out to those who are caring for a homebound family member. You are filled with compassion for your loved one, it is not an easy situation. The time involved and the emotions you experience can be overwhelming. Particularly at this time you may be without a backup caregiver which compounds the stress. If you would like to call to speak to someone experienced with these situation, please do so (516) 679-8532.



# STUMP THE PRIEST !



## Question:

**I am not sure I hear God speaking to me. How do I listen for God's voice?**

## Answer:

In the first place, we read in the letter to the Hebrews ; “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”(Heb. 1:1-2). This means that, for us Christians of today, we wouldn't hear the sound of a voice speaking to us like to such Prophets of old as Abraham, Moses, Samuel among others. What we have as the message of God in our days is what has been written in the Scriptures:

- The prophecies about Christ written in the books of the Old Testament,
- The fulfillment of the prophecies in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ which is written in the Gospels and
- The practical interpretation and application of the Gospels to the lives of Christians written in the New Testament letters.

So you will need to spend time in meditative reading of the Word of God to hear what he has for the ordering of your life. Providentially, the Bible contains examples and directives covering every situation or state of life you may find yourself in.

Secondly, Prayer is the prime means of communicating with God. Therefore, spend time in fervent prayer to God, especially before you make any adventure or take major decisions in your life. Remember that prayer is a communication and not a lecture, so when you have talked to God, be ready to listen in silence for what he also has for you. Sometimes in your prayer moments, you will need to just sit still without uttering any word. Then you will be predisposed for the whispers of God. Once again, don't expect to hear that natural sound of a person speaking.

Furthermore, to hear someone speak, one must be closer. This means that we need to draw closer to God to be able to hear him speak. So make sure you maintain intimacy with the Lord at all times. Go to confession whenever you feel spiritual exercises bore you. Make time to read and meditate on the Word of God every day, be at Mass and receive the Eucharist as often as possible. Then spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament whenever and wherever you have the opportunity.

Finally our consciences have been given as the innermost chamber of encounter with God. The formation of conscience has been defined by the Church as: “The judgement of reason by which we are able to determine the moral quality of an action we have performed, in the process of performing or are about to perform.” So when faced with choices in life, follow what is in accordance with a right conscience formed on the basis of the eternal law of God. Doing this should let you know that you have done what God says you should do. Knowing the good to be done does not also guarantee following it, so you need to cultivate such Christian virtues as obedience, humility, patience, meekness, justice, temperance, fortitude, and the like to be able to choose the good at all times. Thank you.

**The beautiful trees, wreaths, and flowers used to decorate our Church this Christmas Season have been donated by parishioners in memory of deceased loved ones.**

**8' - 9' Frasier Fir Trees**

Joseph F. Eannel  
from Joe and Deb Eannel

Rosemarie Paganelli  
from Lynn McCarthy

**5' – 6' Frasier Fir Trees**

Anthony and Mary Nacci  
from Barbara Nacci

**32" Christmas Wreaths**

Deceased members of the Colletti and Castello families  
from Charlie and Rose Castello

Margaret and Henry Christ and Dominic and Ursula Diliberto  
from Peter and Margaret Diliberto

Lorraine Landi – Hospitality  
from Pat Elliott

Deceased members of the Kaley, Varvaro  
and Stuart Families  
from Fran and John Kaley

Keenan and Politi Families  
from George Keenan

William and Stella Power  
from the Mastrianni Family

All My Loved Ones  
from Susan Matejov

Kathy and Bob Moulder and Carmen and Bob Ritter  
from Robin and Bob Moulder

Albert R. Bongiovi  
from Bob and Kathi Olsen

Frank Rugnetta, Jr.  
from Helen P. Rugnetta

Thomas J. Ward, Sr.  
from Patricia Ward

**White Calandiva**

Helen Becker, Joseph Eannel, Sr., Charlotte Eannel,  
Al Olsen and Felicia Begley  
from Joe and Deb Eannel

Mio Bombardiere and Morris Orlando  
from Sandy Kandybowicz

**Nativity Creche Straw and Greens**

Bonnie and Tom Schmotzer  
from Karen and Mike Schuh

**Red Poinsettias**

Donald Heffernan and Theresa Milano  
from Kerri Bergen

Katherine Gianesses and William Sullivan  
from the Brasile Family

The Corrado and Tempesta Families  
from Vincent and Carole Corrado

Terri Dankenbrink and William E. Davison  
from William and Christine Davison

Alvira and Stanley Liogys  
from the Defendini Family

Eleanor M. Foy, Nana Duffy and Marie Lippert  
from Eileen M. Engelman

Nuala Flaherty, Bridgie Fitzpatrick,  
Brid Collium and Catherine Harte  
from Anthony and Mary Flaherty

Helen and Burt Cavallo  
from Mr. and Mrs. George Gorton

Helen and Burt Cavalo  
from Keith and Catherine Gorton

**The beautiful trees, wreaths, and flowers used to decorate our Church this Christmas Season have been donated by parishioners in memory of deceased loved ones.**

**12" Wreaths for Outside Doors**

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Begley and Mr. and Mrs. Ed O'Malley  
from Tara Begley O'Malley

Francis Conlon  
from Michael Conlon

Margaret Elliott – 9/30/20  
from Pat Elliott

Mauro Filippone  
from Linda Filippone

Philip Geraffo  
from the Gannon Family

Robert Kandybowicz  
from Sandy Kandybowicz

Charles Mantione  
from Michael Mantione

The Reinhardt and McKenna Families  
from Karen and John McKenna

Basil "Buzz" Santini  
from Susie and Tom Quinn

Pasquale Serenita  
from Charlene Serenita

**48" Wreath**

The Godek and Sabatelli Family  
from Mr. and Mrs. R. Sabatelli

**White Poinsettias**

Jeanne M. Laddomada  
from John Laddomada

**Red Poinsettias**

Baby Christopher Murphy  
from Dorothy and Peter Griesbach

Mio Bombardiere and Morris Orlando  
from Sandy Kandybowicz

Rosalie Kirincic and John Facarile  
from Elaine and Steve Kirincic

Jerry Monk and Paul Koster  
from Kelly and Tom Koster

Edward and Marie Lorenzo  
from David Lorenzo

Helen and James O'Donnell  
from Mary A. O'Donnell

Eddie Sanchez  
from Monica and Sofia Sanchez

Rita and Fred Bennekemper  
from Melissa Winn

**White Orchid Cyclamen**

Charles D. Giardino, Anna Giardino and Jacob Becker  
from Joe and Deb Eannel

Nuala Flaherty, Bridgie Fitzpatrick,  
Brid Collium and Catherine Harte  
from Anthony and Mary Flaherty

Mary Nacci and Anthony Nacci  
from Val and Teri Nacci

Ed Tomczyk  
from Gail Tomczyk



# Catholic Kids

December 27, 2020  
Feast of the Holy Family  
Color: White



Bulletin

## Feast of the Holy Family

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. We celebrate Jesus' family and our families! Thank God for the wonderful gifts in your family.

DPBLESSEDPWAREOWTHOSE

BKHISEOWWAYSPOI

Blessed are  
those who fear  
the Lord and  
walk in his  
ways.

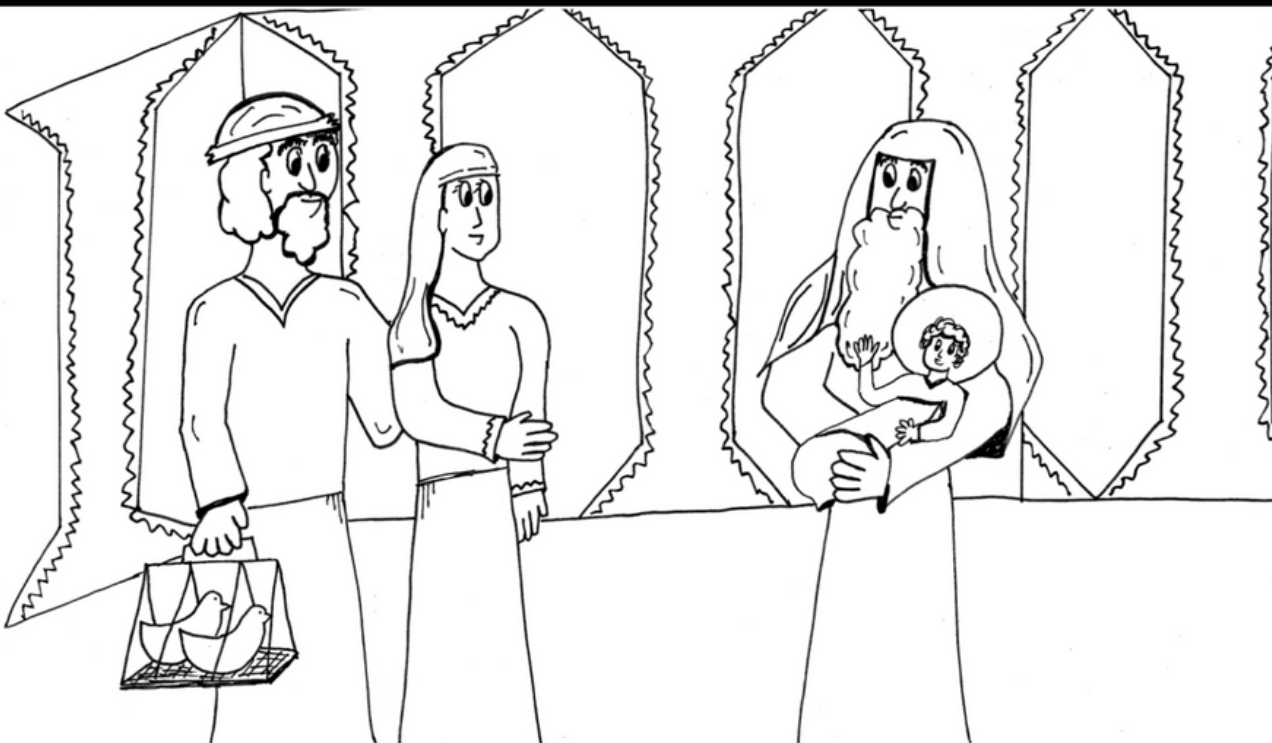
WHOPFEARTHELORD

WLANDOWALKTOWHDIIOINHOPW



It is still the Christmas season, so in church, we keep our Christmas decorations up and sing Christmas carols.

Draw a picture of your family.



### Gospel



When Jesus was a baby, he was presented in the temple. A man named Simeon recognized that Jesus was the son of God.





## *Reconciliation*

Reconciliation will be held in the Church  
Monday through Saturday 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
and on Saturday from 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM.



## *Personal Prayer*

In order to allow for quiet, personal prayer time, the Church will remain open  
until 12:00 N Monday through Friday as of Thursday, October 1, 2020.  
This will be suspended on days when we have scheduled Funeral Masses.



## *Eucharistic Adoration*

Eucharistic Adoration will be held from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  
every day, Monday through Saturday.



## *Rosary*

The Rosary prayer time will be held  
Monday - Saturday after the 8:30 AM Mass.



## *Miraculous Medal*

Novena Devotions will be held on Saturday's at 8:15 AM.



## *St. Peregrine*

St. Peregrine a prayer group for cancer victims, families, and their care givers.  
The Peregrine Hour of Prayer is held on the  
first Monday of each month from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM.



## What is RCIA?

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and it is the process by which unbaptized adults become Catholic. It is also the way those baptized in other Christian faiths to enter into full communion with the Church by receiving Communion and Confirmation, or for baptized Catholics to complete these sacraments if they haven't already.

## How long does it take to become Catholic?

There is not a one size fits all answer to that question. Adult baptisms for Catechumens usually take place at the Easter Vigil, the night before Easter Sunday. Ideally the process would last most of a year or longer depending on the situation. For a baptized Christian of another faith community, the process could proceed rather quickly, only a few months, or longer depending on their own formation and participation in their present faith community. For Catholics who are missing sacraments the process can take a few months or longer.

## Why is it important for a baptized Catholic to complete their sacraments?

Baptism is the entryway into life with Christ, but no one is fully initiated until they receive Confirmation and Eucharist. Confirmation is also needed in order to become a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor, or for marriage to another Catholic with a few exceptions. Eucharist is the summit and source of our faith, and if we can't receive it we are missing out on the graces we receive through Holy Communion.

## Are their tests or homework?

The simple answer is no! However we encourage Catechumens and Candidates to read and explore things on their own, to keep a journal of their thoughts, insights and questions, and to talk things over with sponsors. Of course we expect them to attend Sunday Mass with the parish community and get involved.

## Can you become Catholic if you are divorced?

Yes, but with caveats. It depends on the situation of the previous marriage, and that of the current spouse, if there is one. Some marriage situations are easy to rectify and some take a bit longer. Marriage situations do not preclude candidates from attending sessions to prepare to enter the Church. One of our priests will assist the candidate in this regard.

## What are these rituals?

There are a number of rituals that occur at a Sunday Mass. These are steps, so to speak, to enter the Church. They are public rites, and the parish community prays with the Catechumens and candidates at this time. For those who will be baptized at Easter, they will come together.

## How much does all this cost?

One of the best things about RCIA is that it is FREE!

## I am already Catholic, why should I know about RCIA?

We all may know family members or friends who are not Catholic but may have shown some interest in our faith, or those who have not completed their sacraments. As Catholics we are called, by Christ, to share the Good News with others. This might mean making suggestions to others that they explore Catholicism. If you know about RCIA you can let them know about it and how to go about getting started.

## What does Catechumen mean?

There are a lot of churchy words in RCIA. A Catechumen is a person preparing for Baptism. It is an ancient term meaning one who receives instruction by word of mouth. A candidate is someone from another Christian faith or a Catholic preparing for Confirmation. There are other words that are learned as the person goes along in the process.

## What do RCIA sessions look like?

Sessions are usually held once a month on Sunday after Mass. We meet, discuss the Sunday scriptures, and then have a presentation on Catholic teachings. Sessions are informal and are not classes but faith sharing and exploration of our relationship with Christ, always striving to go deeper into that relationship with God and the Parish community. Our textbook is the Bible, videos, and other materials exploring the Catholic faith.

## What is a sponsor?

A sponsor is someone who accompanies a person on their RCIA journey. Sponsors are usually from the parish community, but sponsors may be chosen by the person if the sponsor is a practicing Catholic who has received all their sacraments of Initiation and is in good standing with the Church. A Catechumen may also choose Godparents in addition to a sponsor.

## Can children be in RCIA?

RCIA sessions are geared for adults. However children do take part in certain rituals that are part of the process. They are usually catechized through the parish school or faith formation. In cases with older children or teens, there may be specific sessions set up for them and their parents.

## Can I accompany someone to RCIA sessions?

Of course! Many Catholics who join a relative or friend at sessions find that they learn things about the Catholic faith that they did not know before. It also gives the Catechumen or Candidate someone else to discuss things with after the sessions.

## How does someone get started in RCIA?

Go to our website at [stwilliam.org/rcia](http://stwilliam.org/rcia). Fill out the registration form and the Inquiry form and email it back to [rcia@stwilliam.org](mailto:rcia@stwilliam.org). You will be contacted by our coordinator regarding starting sessions.