

Roman Catholic Church

December 29, 2024 The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Weekly Schedule

Daily Mass Monday - Saturday: 8:30am

<u>Weekend Masses</u> Saturday: 5pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12n

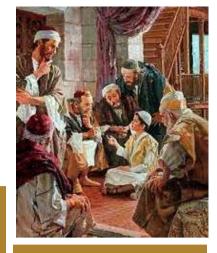
Live-Streamed Masses

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



After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. Luke 2:46-47

Mass Intentions

Sunday, Dec, 29, 2024 Diane & Melissa Kelly Corinne T. Christiansen Yolanda Wilson <u>Collective Intentions</u> People of St. William's Gloria Gribbin Patricia Baisley Andrea Browne

Monday, Dec. 30, 2024 John Grecco

Tues., Dec. 31, 2024 Carmela Artusa William Cabble

Wed., Jan. 1, 2025 People of St. William's Elfriede Lehmuller Thurs., Jan. 2, 2025 Sam Marino

Friday, Jan. 3, 2025 Collective Intentions Thomas C. Luberto Chuck Becker (liv) Armando Cedrone Christopher Carini

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 Purgatorial Society <u>Collective Intentions</u> Christopher Connelly Brian LaValle Thomas Stein Richard D. Colton

Pray for the Sic

Paul Tisillo Michael D'Arpino Sal Lupo Richard Fedyk Grayson Danielski Barbara Geraghty Jen Greico Rosemary Averill

Please pray for the Deceased

Jennie Federici Joan Sadler

Wine & Hosts

The Wine and Hosts used at Mass this week have been donated in honor of the Foy Family from Eileen Engleman

Altar Candles

The Altar Candles used at Mass this week have been donated in loving memory of Barbara Nigro from the Nigro Family

Saint William the Abbot Parish – A Holy Family!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

On behalf of our Deacons, Seminarians, and dedicated Pastoral Staff, I wish you and all those who visit you and our parish a Blessed Solemnity of Jesus Christ's birth!!! As we journey through this Christmas Season and beginning of a new year, we do so with a great sense of God's presence and love for us. The Lord continues to lead us as we draw even closer to our 100th year as a parish family. My heart is filled with gratitude, and I would like to thank you for your presence and prayers with and for our parish family - and my family - throughout this past year. We must continue to be the bearers of the good news, not much different than the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men. We too must proclaim "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all whom his favor rests"!

In that spirit of joy and rejoicing I feel compelled to offer my thanks to God and to all of you who have made this past year a gift and blessing. Losing my Dad last December 28th was extremely difficult, and certainly at times my heart still aches and continues to miss him. Both Advent and Christmas 2024 have been emotional for me and yet still so beautiful. Looking back, even during the leanest of years, Mom and Dad always made sure my siblings and I experienced an overabundance of God's love on Christmas morning. Our love was not measured by the number of gifts under the tree (don't worry, it was always overflowing) – but it was their tender presence and care for us. Every detail: decorations, meals, Christmas songs, the midnight Masses, the classic Lionel Trains, the 8mm and then camcorder recording our family story remains imprinted in my memory. These past six years have also been filled with incredible memories and opportunities for me to try to model that care and love for you all, as my parents showed me.

I have only been able to lead with a missionary spirit because of the team of dedicated disciples who do not just "work" here but serve with such selfless hearts. To the parish office staff, social ministry and outreach team, faith formation and school administration, faculty and catechists, support staff, and volunteers thank you for living and proclaiming the Gospel each day. Thank you to our director of facilities, maintenance, and sacristans for the beautification of the church, school, and campus. Also, to our deacons – John Lynch, Mike Metzdorff, and Tony Cedrone, for their incredible service to our parish and their assistance in bringing the good news to all of us. Their selfless dedication to the sacraments, but especially at the most difficult times of wakes and funerals, have been a powerful encounter of God's compassion and care. We continue our prayers for our seminarians Herley Mendez and Kevin Rueda, who listen to the voice of Lord leading them deeper into formation and closer to ordination. To Father John Crozier and Father Michael Edathil, it is a great gift to live and serve with you both! Our God is faithful and continues to make Himself present to bless and strengthen us here at St. William's.

Finally, I offer a "Christmas Thank You" to everyone who worked so hard at bringing a joyful and prayerful Christmas experience to St. William the Abbot! The liturgical ministers - altar servers, lectors, EMs, greeters, ushers - and especially Jenn, Paul, and those who assisted them as guest musicians and leaders of song. Also to Kate, Kathy, and John, who manage a lot of extra projects in anticipation of Christmas including motivating the "decoration elves" who helped to make the Church look amazing!

Thank you again everyone who contributed so generously to our Christmas food and toy drives, memorializations, adopt–a–family program, New Year's Ball Drop, and to the Christmas collection – I am honored and humbled by the spirit of generosity and care which is at the CORE of St. William the Abbot Parish.

And on a lighter note (or heavier note) - thank you also for the overabundance of Christmas gifts and sugary snacky snacks that so many of you brought to us at the rectory these past few weeks. Yes, if you were wondering, that is me in the gym, and if I do not stop to speak to you it is because I am trying to lose the extra layer I gained during Advent/Christmas! We thoroughly enjoyed your baking skills, the cheese and fruit selections, gift cards, the family photos, and of course the libations which are always so appreciated. On behalf of the entire St. William the Abbot pastoral team and staff – I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, hopeful, and Happy New Year!

Ar. Jol

Help Keep the Church Clean

We ask that those visiting the Church do not leave flowers, religious cards, holiday cards, Bibles, or religious artifacts in the Church, near the religious statues or on the Sanctuary. It is acceptable to discard these items or burn them. Thank you.

Light a Prayer Candle

Lighting candles has long been a sacred ritual in all traditions, creating precious moments in our own and other people's lives where we pray for loved ones, friends, and ask for or give support.

Baptisms

Let us welcome the following children who were baptized this past weekend:

Henry Clark Micah Clark Courtney Lutz Palmer Mintz Austin Theos

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.

Pray for Those in the Military

Lt. Ian Bayer (USN) - Lt. Rebecca Bayer (USN) - Lt. Ryan Bayer (USN) - Sgt. Craig Bianco (USA) - Capt. Michael DiPietro (USA) - First Lt. 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) - Capt. Philip Lettieri, MD (USA) - Lt. Cpl. Kevin Marshall (USMC) - Major Eamon G. McArdle (USA) - Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers (USAF) - 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) - Major Thomas F. Shields (USAF) - Lt. Col. Michelle Simpson (USAF) - Commander Michael S. Slatley (USN) - 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)



Visit the parish Facebook and Instagram (@stwilliamabbot) every Tuesday and Thursday for our video series explaining elements of our faith and our church!

the feast of **The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** Mass Times: Tuesday, December 31st - 5:00 PM Wednesday, January 1st - 9am, 12n



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2024

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

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

Last Christmas, we celebrated the 800th anniversary of that glorious and historic night when St. Francis of Assisi arranged the first Nativity creche scene in a small cave outside the Italian village of Greccio in Italy.

St. Francis was inspired to do this after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land – the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave.

The large creche set in St. Peter's Square last year commemorated this 800th anniversary by having the figure of St. Francis of Assisi expressing adoration, awe and wonder across the Crib from Mary and Joseph.

Last September, we celebrated the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis receiving the gift of the "stigmata" – the mystical wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side. In 2026, we will celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death.

There is always a powerful connection between the Manger Crib and the Golgotha Cross of our Savior. St. Francis of Assisi lived this connection so powerfully.

In *Admirabile Signum*, Pope Francis writes: "Indeed, the place where this first nativity scene was enacted expresses and evokes these sentiments...from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the Cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in great need (cf. Matthew 25:31-46)." (3)

As we spiritually draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this year, we pray for those who suffer in the Holy Land and the Middle East, in Ukraine and all war-torn areas of the world.

We pray too for the persecuted Church around the world and we pray for religious liberty in our country and in all countries. St. Francis of Assisi understood the problems of the world and more than 800 years later, after he created the first creche, he is still close to the Church and to the world.

Many of you have seen the bronze statue of Atlas directly across from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

It was created by the sculptor Lee Lawrie and installed in 1937. The sculpture portrays the mythical ancient Greek Titan Atlas holding the burden of the heavens on his shoulder.

St. Francis of Assisi is no myth, but at times he has been compared with Atlas in how, through the centuries, he carried the burdens of the Church on his shoulders with his radical and pure Gospel witness.

In fact, Pope Innocent III, after meeting St. Francis, had a dream that St. Francis was holding up St. John Lateran Basilica, the visible sign and symbol of the universal Church, amidst the storms and earthquakes of history and crisis.

Configured to Christ crucified and having lived daily with the stigmatic wounds of Christ, St. Francis helps to animate and inspire the mission of mercy of the Catholic Church through the centuries.

St. Francis of Assisi intercedes for each of us at every moment to help rebuild the Biblical and Eucharistic evangelizing mission of the Church that Jesus Himself founded on Long Island and beyond.

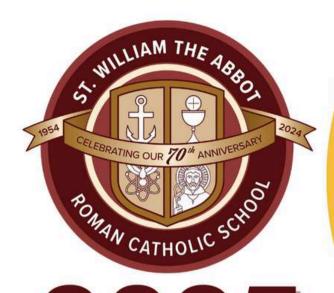
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Joh O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre



2025OPEN HOUSE

WHY ST. WILLIAM'S?

We are dedicated to the spiritual development of our students within the framework of the Gospel and the traditions of the Catholic Church. We educate the whole child, blending learning with faith and faith with daily life.

TEACHING AS CHRIST DID

Along with daily religious instruction, students and faculty attend Mass weekly, joining together in the celebration of the Eucharist. We also participate in an Annual Retreat Day, where we set aside our formal learning to pray and have fun together.

Tuition Assistance is available for children in grades K-8 through the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation.

TOMORROWSHOPEFOUNDATION.ORG





JANUARY

26

10:30 AM MASS

11:30 AM OPEN HOUSE

5Ws







The SWS 4th graders presented the school Christmas liturgy and Living Nativity on the last day of school before the break and did a wonderful job! Joy to the world!





Early Childhood Information Night Thursday, January 23rd 6:30-7:30pm

For families of perspective Nursery, Pre-K, and Kindergarten students

Catholic Schools Week Open House

Sunday, January 26th 11:30am-1:30pm

For all friends, families, and perspective students

Winten Open House Thursday, February 6th 6:30-8pm

For families of perspective Nursery - 8th Grade students The St. William the Abbot School community is "Guided by Faith and Inspired to Excel."

We invite you to schedule a private tour for your family by visiting our website or calling 516-785-6784

stwilliamtheabbot.net

JUBILEE YEAR

Italy Pilgrimage

WITH FR. JOE

With visits to St. William's Monastery in Monte Vergine and

NAPLES · SORRENTO · AMALFI COAST · POMPEII · ASSISI GUBBIO · LA VERNA · ORVIETO · ROME · ST. PETER'S BASILICA · VATICAN MUSEUM · APPIAN WAY · BASILICA OF ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS · CATACOMBS · PAPAL AUDIENCE · TREVI FOUNTAIN · HOLY STEPS · BASILICA OF ST. MARY MAJOR

FEBRUARY 17TH - 27TH, 2025



VISIT 206TOURS.COM/CMS/FRJOE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR EMAIL PRIESTS@STWILLIAM.ORG









Parisb Social Ministry

Pantry List

Corn Flakes Frosted Flakes Cookies Hearty Beef Soups Egg Noodles Pancake Syrup Dish Soap

Tbank You Adopt-a-Family Donors

Thank you to all 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! In addition, your generous food



donations provided everyone with the items they needed 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!

SWA 5tb Graders Donate Ornaments



Mary Grace Bradley's 5th grade class at St. William the Abbot School created snowman ornaments for the Social Ministry to distribute for the holidays. What a thoughtful gift the St. Williams students created! Each snowman had a holiday message written on the back from the students. The ornaments were given to residents of Maria Regina in Brentwood, a nursing and rehabilitation care facility. Sr. Joan of Arc, one of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk and a resident of Maria Regina, coordinated the distribution of ornaments among residents. These heartfelt gifts from the students brought many smiles to the residents of Maria Regina. Thank you, St. Williams 5th graders!

Neighbors Help Neighbors: Seaford Lions



The Seaford Lions recently made a large donation to the Social Ministry to support community outreach. The Lions, an active supporter of our ministry, donated funds so that we can help local families not only with food and basic needs of living but also with unexpected expenses that derail a family's ability to make ends meet. We are so grateful for the partnership of the Seaford Lions, and for their spirit of generosity!

Prayer Sbawl Ministry

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday January 7 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!



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 utility service off. information having your shut For more or to apply, visit https://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/



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 Rev. John Crozier In Residence

priests@stwilliam.org

Deacons

Dcn. Anthony Cedrone Dcn. John Lynch Dcn. Michael Metzdorff

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 Faitb Formation

Laura Walsh Director

faithformation@stwilliam.org | 516-783-2528 stwilliam.org/faith-formation

Parish Social Ministry

Contract Inter

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

Music Ministry

Jennifer Hegmann-Palminteri Director

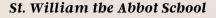
information@stwilliam.org

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



Elizabeth Bricker Kasey Grasso Principal Assistant Principal

> 516-785-6784 stwilliamtheabbot.net

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

Our Seminarians

Kevin Rueda Pastoral Year Herley Mendez SWA Parisbioner

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

Pastoral Council

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

Finance Council

Rita Defendini* - Robert Gerbard - Jobn Kaley* Tom Kiley - Ed Lettieri

*Parish Trustees

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)

> Bisbop Emeritus Most Reverend William Murphy

> > drvc.org



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