



# St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



**December 31, 2023**

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### 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

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2:39-40

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

Carole Corrado

#### Collective Intentions

Angelo & Marioin

Ambrosio

Alphonse Cassillo

Deceased members of the

Breitfeller Family

Laura Vacaro

Mary Ann Toscano

Valdez & LeGoff Family

(liv)

#### Monday, Jan. 1, 2024

#### Collective Intentions

James Diehl

Robert F. Burke

Dolores Pfeiffer

Robert Palmer

Sr. Joanne Bonauro

#### Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024

Sam Marino

#### Wed., Jan. 3, 2024

Anna Pober

#### Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024

Santo Zaccoli

#### Friday, Jan. 5, 2024

Carmela Artusa

#### Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024

Purgatorial Society

Eileen M. Curran

### Pray for the Sick

Christine Pittelli

Keith Gorton

Richard Fedyk

John L. Fox

### Pray for the Deceased

John A. Battiste

Frank Padavan

Gary J. Sanchez

Patrick Connelly

William J. Spahn

### Wine and Hosts

The Wine and Hosts used at Mass this week have been donated in honor of the Parishioners of St. William the Abbot

### Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers used at Mass this week have been donated in honor of the Parishioners of St. William the Abbot

## ***Blessed Feast of the Holy Family and Happy New Year***

In the Fitzgerald family, we have a little inside joke/wise crack as the whole family gathers for Christmas and other large celebrations referencing John Lennon's legendary song "Happy Christmas", which contains the line "so, this is Christmas". It usually comes when someone makes a "master of the obvious" statement like "look, the tree is decorated", or someone courageously wears a "creative" Christmas outfit that most would not seriously consider wearing, or there is a little culinary mishap in the kitchen preparing the holiday meal. In unison we call out "so, this is Christmas". When we first started saying it, my mom thought it was fun and that we were honoring the legendary Beatle's talent. Eventually she figured out that we were reminding ourselves of the humanity and the messiness of our family – which I would not trade for anything. When it comes to family, the challenge is not much different than the Innkeeper from last week's Gospel - we don't always get to choose the people who will show up at our door at Christmas time.

Sometimes in our families we can be all on the same page, but more often than not, people show up with very different perspectives and ideas. A family, just like a parish community, gathers around a table with common hopes and dreams at the holiday celebrations. We desire a deeper love and friendship, peace in our hearts and our world, and the promise that next year may be just a little better for all of us. You have heard me say the beauty of this feast we celebrate today is that we call it the Holy Family, not the perfect family. We as a parish are far from perfect (beginning with me as your pastor), but we are striving towards holiness, cooperating with God's grace, and embracing opportunities to encounter the Lord at the liturgy and among each other.

We do not always get to choose the people we love, but they are presented to us, or really given to us, by God as a gift for our own sanctification and holiness. There was great wisdom in the Heavenly Father to have His son, Jesus, be born into a family of a simple peasant girl, a caring manual laborer, and to what would appear to be not such an ideal situation. Maybe we can identify in our own families the flaws, dysfunctions, and brokenness that make us who we are as well. The beauty is that we shine in those moments when we all come together and we reflect the light of Christ to others. That was so clearly experienced and witnessed here at St. William the Abbot parish last weekend.

To see the cooperation of our pastoral staff, parish ministries, and clergy coming together for an incredible celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ was also a gift. Thank you to all you faithful parishioners who are with us week-in and week-out, and those who visited and prayed with us for the first time at Christmas. I want to again acknowledge and thank our ministries - ushers, lectors, choir, sacristans, altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the Deacons, and brother priests for creating a prayer and worship experience to remember for many years. I thank Jennifer Lynde and Paul Cartier for coordinating the music, Kathy Cain and Bob Moulder for organizing the liturgies and greeting those who entered the church, our maintenance team - John Grymes, Jim Rubenstein, and Mike Reiderscheid - and Kate Walsh for captaining the whole Advent and Christmas effort. Amazing!

May Our Lord Jesus, Our Blessed Mother Mary, and Saint Joseph guide, protect, and lead us as we enter into 2024 - and so... this is another Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we journey towards holiness as a parish family.

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

## St. Peregrine Prayer Hour



patron saint of those suffering from cancer.

Future prayer hours will be held on the first Monday of each month. Cancer victims, families, and their care-givers are all are invited to come and pray.

## Banns of Marriage

### Banns II

Maria DeDomenico, St. William the Abbot & Michael Bueno, St. Catharine of Alexandria

Allison Izzo, St. William the Abbot & Joseph Scheno, St. Patrick's Church, Smithtown

## Pillar of Prayer

As we enter the new year, make a resolution to deepen your prayer life. Adopt a new spiritual practice, like praying the Rosary daily, attending a weekday Mass, or going to confession monthly.

## Pray for Those in the Military

### US Air Force -

Capt. Matthew B. Frasse  
Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers  
Airman Carlos Rosado  
Major Thomas F. Shields

### USMC -

First Lt. Dana Duggan  
L.Cpl. John Mosier

### US Coast Guard -

LT Commander James Knudsen  
Daniel Timpanaro  
LT Commander Katherine Ustler

### US Army -

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

### US Navy -

Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald  
Jr. Lt. Ryan Bayer  
Jr. Lt. Rebecca Bayer  
Jr. Lt. Ian Bayer  
STSC (SS) Thomas Kerley  
Lt. Michael O'Hara  
MMN2 Emily Partridge  
Commander Michael Sean Slatley  
Lt. Michael Napolitano  
Michael Vietri

### 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

# BACK TO BASICS

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:  
Monday, January 1st  
9am, 12n

stwilliam.org



# Christmas Celebrations at St. William the Abbot





# Christmas Celebrations at St. William the Abbot







*We invite you to come and see what makes*

# **ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL**

*so special . . .*

**EARLY CHILDHOOD INFORMATION EVENING**  
(NURSERY - PRE-KINDERGARTEN - KINDERGARTEN)  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH - 6:30PM

**GRADES NURSERY - 8TH OPEN HOUSE:**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH - 11AM  
(FOLLOWING THE 10:30AM MASS TO CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[WWW.STWILLIAMTHEABBOT.NET](http://WWW.STWILLIAMTHEABBOT.NET)

*Guided by Faith and Inspired to Excel*

### **Pantry Needs**

Canned Spinach	Pasta Sauce
White Rice	Dish Soap
Apple Juice	All-Purpose Spray

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### **Volunteer Spotlight: Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Recently the Prayer Shawl Ministry received a note of gratitude from Kathleen Kennedy, the Vice President of Operations at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bethpage. She expressed her deepest gratitude to all the volunteers for making lap blankets for their patients. The talents and efforts of the Prayer Shawl Ministry are truly making an impact on their patients. Please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the volunteers in our Prayer Shawl Ministry, we are so grateful for them!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday January 2 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!

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Lord, we remember that all we have in this world is first a gift from you that requires the collaboration of human hands. Thank you for all those who offer their time and talents, joining in our ministry of bringing healing, hope, and compassion to all those in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Why do we ring the bells during the Eucharistic Prayer?**

In the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the bread and wine become the Sacramental Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When do the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ? During the Consecration. What do we call the change of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood? Transubstantiation. There are many ways of experiencing the Mass. We at St. William's, as well as most Catholics, experience the Ordinary Form of Mass or the Novus Ordo (Roman Rite Mass of 1970).

During Mass here at our parish, we normally hear bells rung at three different times after the Holy, Holy, Holy is sung or recited, we hear the bells when the priest, calling down the Holy Spirit, extends his hands over the bread and wine on the altar which are to become the Body and Blood of Jesus (1st time). We hear the bells next when the Holy Spirit, through the unworthy priest acting in the person of Christ, consecrates the bread into the Body of Christ (2nd time). And we hear the bells again when, through the words and actions of the priest, the Holy Spirit consecrates the wine into the Blood of Christ (3rd time). Before 1970, the Catholic Mass was in the Latin language in most of the world. Except for those following the Missal, the congregation did not understand or even hear what the priest was saying. Thus, when the bells were rung the congregation was made aware that the Consecration was happening.



As Jesus came down to save us, he comes to us again at every Mass. Normally, the second and third times we hear the bells are the times when the bread and wine become the Body (2nd time) and Blood (3rd time) of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the bells are rung, at that moment, we should adore the Lord who is really, truly, and substantially present in his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Ideally our adoration at the moment of Consecration should be in reverent stillness and silence, whether we are looking at the newly consecrated Body and Blood, keeping our head down, or keeping our eyes closed.

Today, although the Eucharistic Prayer is in English and said loud enough for all to hear, it is still easy for us to become distracted and lose sight of the miracle that is happening at the Consecration. During Mass, the ringing of the bells continue to draw our attention to the fact that Jesus' Body and Blood are now present on the altar. It is as if everyday is Christmas (Christ's Mass), since Jesus sacramentally comes down to be with us and save us, provided that we are open to His salvation in faith and love.



CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS AGES 18 - 22  
JOIN FR. JOE & FR. JOHN FOR

# Mass & Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH - 8:30AM

PLEASE RSVP HERE:

CONTACT KWALISH@STWILLIAM.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS



**A VIRTUS training session specifically for parishioners of St. William the Abbot has been scheduled for Thursday, January 25th at 7pm in The Abbey.**

**This training is required for all volunteers of any ministry within the parish and for all volunteers of SWS and the Faith Formation program.**

**Please note that space is limited and you must register online (no calls, please) prior to the class by using the instructions below provided by the Diocese of Rockville Centre.**

For Volunteers in the Diocese of Rockville Centre

A person wishing to volunteer in any parish or organization in the Diocese of Rockville Centre must first complete three requirements:

1. Attend Protecting God's Children (Virtus)
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screening application.  
(Background screening is conducted on all volunteers and employees every 5 years.)

Directions to Complete the 3 Requirements:

1. Sign up to attend a *Protecting God's Children* class by visiting **[www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)**.

When you log on to the Virtus website, you will create a Virtus account.

- a. If you have not attended a Virtus class, you are a first time registrant.
  - b. The first screen will ask the name of your organization—from the drop down list, please select Rockville Centre-Safe Environment.
  - c. Follow all directions on the next screens.
  - d. One screen will have the Codes of Conduct. Please acknowledge the Codes of Conduct.
  - e. Continue with the registration process and select the class you will attend.
  - f. After selecting the class, you will be instructed to complete the background screening application.
2. Background Screening Application:
    - a. Sterling Volunteers is the company providing the background screening.
    - b. Follow all the directions to complete the background screening application. **DO NOT STOP ONCE YOU BEGIN THE APPLICATION!** If you stop—you are locked out of the process due to security procedures.
    - c. You will need to provide your Social Security Number  
(if you do not provide a Social Security number, you will be charged a fee)
    - d. After completing the application, hit the 'Submit Button'



# Consider Automated Giving

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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.

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## Authorization Agreement for Automated Giving

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize the R. C. Church of St. William the Abbot, 2000 Jackson Avenue, Seaford, NY 11783 to initiate debit entries to my Checking ( ) Savings ( ) account indicated below and the depository named below to debit the same such amount.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly on the fifteenth of the month.

Depository: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Banking Transit ABA # \_\_\_\_\_  
(always nine digits)

Bank Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

***(Attach to this form a voided check if checking account debit or a pre-printed savings deposit ticket if savings account).***

This authorization is to remain in full force effect until the R. C. Church of St. William the Abbot has received written notification at least five business days in advance of the desired termination date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized signature for above account)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If second signature is required:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized signature for above account)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





**stwilliam.org**



**@stwilliamabbot**

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by Credit Card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or CashApp

Or visit  
[stwilliam.org/ways-to-give](http://stwilliam.org/ways-to-give)



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

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

**Rev. John Crozier**  
*In Residence*

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

### **Deacons**

**Dcn. Anthony Cedrone**

**Dcn. John Lynch**

**Dcn. Michael Metzdorff**

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

### **Rectory Staff**

**Judy Goldman**  
*Business Manager*  
[jgoldman@stwilliam.org](mailto:jgoldman@stwilliam.org)

**Sue McCormick**  
*Office Manager*  
[information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org)

**Kate Walsh**  
*Development & Operations*  
[kwash@stwilliam.org](mailto:kwash@stwilliam.org)

### **Office of Faith Formation**

**Sr. Joan Klimski, OP**  
*Director*

[faithformation@stwilliam.org](mailto:faithformation@stwilliam.org) | 516-783-2528  
[stwilliam.org/faith-formation](http://stwilliam.org/faith-formation)

### **Parish Social Ministry**

**Allison Marro**  
*Director*

[socialministry@stwilliam.org](mailto:socialministry@stwilliam.org) | 516-679-8532  
[stwilliam.org/social-ministry](http://stwilliam.org/social-ministry)

### **Music Ministry**

**Jennifer Lynde**  
*Director*

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

### **Rectory Information**

2000 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783

516-785-1266

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

*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**  
*Principal*

**Ryan Fedak**  
*Assistant Principal*

516-785-6784

[stwilliamtheabbot.net](http://stwilliamtheabbot.net)

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

### **Our Seminarians**

**Dcn. Joseph Lettieri**  
*SWA Parishioner*

**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\* - Robert Gerbard - John Kaley\***  
**Tom Kiley - Ed Lettieri**

*\*Parish Trustees*

### **Resources**

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**  
[rcia@stwilliam.org](mailto:rcia@stwilliam.org) | [stwilliam.org/rcia](http://stwilliam.org/rcia)

**Baptisms & Weddings at St. William the Abbot**  
[stwilliam.org/sacraments](http://stwilliam.org/sacraments)

**Register as a St. William the Abbot Parishioner**  
[stwilliam.org/i-am-new](http://stwilliam.org/i-am-new)

**Catholic High Schools of Long Island**  
[chsee.org](http://chsee.org)

**Diocese of Rockville Centre**  
[drvc.org](http://drvc.org)

**Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand**  
[formed.org](http://formed.org)

**Tomorrow's Hope Foundation: Financial Aid for Catholic Schools**  
[tomorrowshopefoundation.org](http://tomorrowshopefoundation.org)

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

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

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

**Most Reverend William Murphy**  
*Bishop Emeritus*

[drvc.org](http://drvc.org)