# St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

#### RECTORY

Office: 516.785.1266 2000 Jackson Avenue Seaford, NY 11783 stwilliam.org Monday - Friday 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 9 AM - 6 PM Sunday 9 AM - 1 PM

**RECTORY HOURS** 



For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. - John 20:9

## **MASS TIMES**

The presider schedule can be found on the parish website stwilliam.org

DAILY MASS Monday - Friday 8:30 AM WEEKEND MASS

Saturday 8:30 AM & 5 PM Sunday 7:30 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM, & 12 PM

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday, April 4, 2021 Michael Litras Basil Santini Collective Intentions Ursuline Sisters Prayer Cards Enrollment Intentions Keith Mastronardi Domenico D'Armi James Palazzo People of St. Williams Edwin Boden Valdez-Legoff (LIV)

> Monday, April 5, 2021 Frank Cosgrove

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Christopher Canonico Wednesday, April 7, 2021 Coleen M. Downing

Thursday, April 8, 2021 Collective Intentions Gaetano Mineo Theresa Borowski Donald Clark Marie McCahill

Friday, April 9, 2021 Cathryn Defeo Aladino Gregorio

Saturday, April 10, 2021 Purgatorial Society Esther Stephen The Sanctuary Candles used at mass this week were donated In loving memory of

Harriet & Bernard Phillips

from the Phillips Family.

The Altar Candles used at mass this week were donated in living memory of

Nicholas Caico

from Carol Caico.

The Wine and Host used at mass this week have donated in loving memory of

Coleen M. Downing

from the Downing & Hyland Families.

Baptism

Nieve E.Kassebaum

Let us welcome those children who were Baptized this past weekend.

### Pray for the Sick

Viviana Trapani Tyler Donohue Gary Panzl Diane O'Neill Anthony Princhinello

### Pray for the Deceased

Rosina Florio

Michael P. Gubing

Sue Ann McNey

#### Easter 2021 - He is Truly Risen

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul writes "Oh Death, where is your sting? Where is your victory?" Looking back to last year, our beliefs and faith foundation may have been shaken by the virus and all that happened. But in 2021 as we celebrate the hope of Easter and the resurrection together 'in-person,' I feel the question is - "Oh Covid where is your sting? Where is your victory?" Saint Paul knew the power of our faith in Christ Jesus would strengthen and sustain us through even the most difficult moments. This past year has been so challenging – the pandemic has knocked us back a little bit; but just as the hope of the empty tomb, and the promise of the budding leaves of spring, and the joy of gathering as family and friends, the strength of Christ crucified and Risen can defeat even a global pandemic with community, connection, and love.

For 2000 years men and women of faith have gathered to proclaim the victory of Jesus Christ who prevails over death and darkness. Those first eyewitnesses of the Risen Lord saw and experienced both the suffering and the redemption. Today we look to the earliest Christian community to inspire us to do the same, to grasp onto that glimmer of hope that Jesus will once again conquer and reign as the King of Peace. We have lived in a time of disruption, personally, with some family and friends who have been sick and died from the Corona Virus. We have also seen loved ones who have selflessly put themselves into harm's way for the safety and protection of countless unknown others, living the Christian ethic. We have also seen division in our country known as the United States; and that division has revealed itself politically, morally, racially, and economically. Yet this weekend we see faithful believers are able to come into a building and to stand together and worship a loving God united in faith and hope - despite where the rest of the country or the world is at. The Gospel today tells us that the stone was rolled away, and God's love raised Jesus from the dead. We as faithful Christians are called to roll away the stones of division, and anger, and sin, and to see through the lens of the resurrection, and through the lens of Love.

As we look around the church, the parking lot, even the neighborhood and see the new Easter bonnets, the new khaki slacks, and the new flowered dresses, Easter is no doubt a time of newness and renewal. It is at the center of this Easter day message and our faith as Catholics. Of all my great memories of Easters in the past, I think of the Easter basket with real and chocolate eggs, the Marshmallow Peeps, the 'big chocolate bunny,' the outdoor and indoor egg hunts, the devouring of the meals of ham or leg of lamb!!! But my favorite part was wearing that new outfit the Easter Bunny delivered that morning to Mass, and to the relative's house after. I wanted to show it off and tell others - "look what I got!" It is no different than the action and movement of those first disciples who left the empty tomb to show off and tell others a "new message," look what I got, the message that LOVE conquered!

Love wins. That is the message that Jesus spoke right from the start of his ministry. He passed it on to those first disciples and the earliest community that gathered in His name. It is the message that remains for us to tell others today. We can look at the divisions that are present in our world, our country, our parish, and our families and become discouraged. But we are given hope when see that vulnerable, raw, and selfless love will prevail over everything. Let that be the center of your message today and into the Easter season. Some of you may be going to households where you will sit around a table inside or in the backyard to share a meal with people who are not always easy to sit down with. We all bring our family baggage on this journey of life and faith; the hope is that we might be humble enough to help carry each other's. Jesus was so radical and revolutionary in the way that he was kind and loved others that really threw people for a loop, and at times opened them up to the message. Today when you go to that family member's house and bring over the dessert, or the wine, or the covered dish, leave the baggage of anger and bad memories and bring just a dose of humility and love - especially to those people who are difficult to love.

The love of Christ is so powerful that it can transform death into life, it can raise from the dead!! Perhaps there is a long-standing relationship in your life, or your family that recent circumstances have made it remain dormant or even dead. Let's take the Easter joy and the vulnerability of Christ to all that we meet - even those people most difficult to love. Those first disciples were blown away by the power of Christ's love, and proclaimed so loudly that He is Risen, He is Truly Risen! How powerful it would be if we brought that same message of hope to our own family members and loved ones that they may experience not only the gift of the great meal that you will share together, but the hope of the resurrection.

I want to especially thank you all for your continued commitment and support of St. William the Abbot and all our ministries. Our parish has shone like a lighthouse of hope to the Seaford, Wantagh, and Massapequa communities. The amount of people who have come into St William's just to take a moment to pray, or light a candle, or say a quick hello to Jesus these past few months have been both inspiring and overwhelming. Jesus remains as the center of our hope. He continues to invite us to live in love as he did. As we celebrate this Easter Sunday 2021 may our words and actions always point to the truth - He is Risen - He is Truly Risen! God bless you, and happy Easter!

Peace, Fr Joe

### **Rectory News**

#### **Year-End Tax Statements**

Please note that year-end statements for your taxes will not be automatically mailed out. They may be obtained upon request from the Rectory. Please call 516-785-1266 to request your statement, or email your name, address, phone number and envelope number to information@stwilliam.org.

#### Memorializing

The Rectory is issuing Mass Cards, enrollment in the Purgatorial Society, Memorializing the Wine, Host, Candles and Altar Flowers. Please call the Rectory for more information (516) 785-1266 or email information@stwilliam.org

#### Emergency

If there is an emergency in which you need to contact a priest immediately, please call the Priest Emergency telephone - 516-312-7361.

#### 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.

#### **Memorials Available**

We are pleased to announce that the Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Candles that are used at Mass throughout the week are now available as memorials.

Anyone wishing to donate the Sanctuary Candle or the Altar Candles in memory of a loved one or on the occasion of an anniversary, birthday, etc., can make this request at the Rectory. Please call 516-785-1266. The offering for the Sanctuary Candle is \$15 and the offering for the Altar Candles is \$30. The name of the person will be announced in the bulletin for each week the candles are donated.



#### **Divine Mercy Sunday**

April 11 In the Church Divine Mercy Holy Hour 3:00 - 5:00 PM

#### **Garden Ministry**

The Garden Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with gardens in need of some TLC...great opportunity to serve our parish needs! Please email information@stwilliam.org if you are interested.



#### Missals

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.

#### **Email List**

If you are not currently on our email list and would like to receive email updates on parish news and the bulletin, in your inbox please register on the parish website. 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.

#### LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

Join us online to view our live-streamed masses on the parish website **stwilliam.org**.

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM Saturday 5:00 PM Sunday 12:00 PM

#### **Church Opening During Lent**

The Church will be open for private prayer Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM during Lent. If there is something taking place in the church such as a funeral, wedding, class, parent meetings, RCIA, etc., parishioners should understand that they should not remain in church during these activities.

#### **Seaford Fire Department**

The Seaford Fire Department will be hosting its Annual Easter Plant Sale on Saturday, April 3rd from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM and Easter Sunday, April 4th from 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM at headquarters on the corner of Waverly and Southard Avenues in Seaford. A wide variety of plants and flowers will be available for purchase (while supplies last). It is being held rain or shine. Thank you in advance for your support.



In Mrs. Bradley's seventh grade Social Studies class, the students celebrated Women's History Month by researching women who have helped to change the world. From Misty Copeland to Estee Lauder, Jane Addams to Margaret Hamilton, the students examined the lives of athletes, entrepreneurs, activists, and scientists. These women have served and will continue to serve as an inspiration for generations to come.



Students in Mrs. Hayes' Kindergarten class enjoyed an author study of Mo Willems! They loved reading his Pigeon and Elephant and Piggie books. Additionally, the Book Bakery was open! Each day, students "tasted" a new book genre, including mystery, biography and fairy tale! Students took home a bakery treat, too!



Class of '21 celebrated a delayed CSW Pizza Party. The Annual Faculty v 8th Grade Volleyball game was put on hold this year, so we enjoyed some SWS CLASS OF '21 Volleyball Cookies instead!

## **Faith Formation**



THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD. Today we celebrate Easter! Jesus has risen from the dead! Alleluia Alleluia! It is time for celebration for our Jesus suffered, was nailed to a cross, and died. He proved to everyone that he is the Son of God and did what he promised that he would do. He rose from the dead on the third day, and we will have eternal life in Heaven! Let us all put our trust and love into Jesus, for he is here for all of us always, just as he claimed.

The Faith Formation Parent Sessions will begin again on Saturday, April 10th. The other dates are Monday, April 12th, Tuesday, April 13th, and Wednesday, April 14th. All the Parent's must sign up to attend the Parent Sessions, you cannot just walk in because of Covid, we must socially distance everyone. Any questions, please contact us at faithformation@stwilliam.org or 516-783-2528.

#### WISHING OUR FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES, A BLESSED EASTER!

#### **Purgatorial Society**

Billy Kelly, Thomas Fitzmaurice, Ralph J. Hunt, Dorothy Holland, Nicola Campanella, Brendan McGuire, Vincent McGuire. Mary Barraco, Donald Clark. Helen Mayer, Carmela Artusa, Anthony Nacci, Mary Nacci, Clarice Prato. Carmela I. Angelone, Michael Attilibale, Mitzi Babich, Veronica Bolonga, Richard Ford, Malcolm Hewitt, Peter Ponterio, Louis Romano, Carmela Salerno, Ernest Corsini, Hazel Arrwda, Peggy Francis. Barbara Hyland, Margaret Geis, Carl Ingrilli, Joseph LaBarbera, Laurie Palmieri, Gregory Sofia, Barbara Benoit, Doris Morris, Michael Meoni, Melissa Garvey.



#### **Parish Social Ministry**

Allison Marro and her family have been parishioners at St. William the Abbot for over 15 years. Allison's involvement in the parish has included 5 years as part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as volunteering in the Social Ministry office and food pantry. She has also been an active volunteer at St. William the Abbot School. In March of 2020 Allison was hired part-time by the Social Ministry office.

Allison graduated from Boston College with a degree in accounting and is a licensed CPA. She spent over 20 years in financial services working primarily for Morgan Stanley and later JP Morgan Chase. Allison retired from financial services in 2014 to focus on her family.

Allison was raised in Glen Rock, New Jersey and moved to Long Island in 2002 when she married he husband Robert. She has a daughter Claire, age 15 and stepson Kieran, age 24. Both children graduated from St. William the Abbot School.

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW CONSIDERING COMING INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, OR ARE YOU ALREADY BAPTIZED AND WISH TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS OF EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION?

## **BECOME CATHOLIC**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: JO-ANN METZDORFF AT RCIA@STWILLIAM.ORG

# **Stump the Priest**



### What does the White Collar represent? Do other Christian Priests wear it?

The clerical collar, clergy collar, or Roman collar, is an item of Christian clerical clothing worn by priests around the world. The clerical collar is a narrow, stiff, and upright white collar that fastens at the back. It is almost always white and was originally made of cotton or linen but is now frequently made of plastic. In the Catholic Church, the clerical collar is worn by all ranks of clergy, thus: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and often by seminarians as well with their cassock during liturgical celebrations.

Historically speaking, collars started to be worn around the sixth century as a way for clergy to be easily identified outside the church. It started out as something from popular fashion and then later took on a deeper spiritual meaning. It speaks more loudly than any words and clearly identifies clergy members in a crowd of any size.

A collar is a sign of a person's religious calling, and helps others in the community to identify them, regardless of their faith. Spiritually, it has become representative of a priest's consecration to God and his role as someone set apart for priestly service. Some priests see it as a symbol of their "slavery" to God, showing the world who is their true Master.

The collar remains a distinctive sign of the priest's availability and the permanent nature of Holy Orders. The priest "is not his own" and is a visible sign of Jesus Christ, present in the midst of everyday life, ready to reconcile sinners and bring souls back to God.

Collars are typically worn by clergy of other groups such as those of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran traditions. Also many Pentecostal and non-denominational Protestants, and others wear collars.

## Palm Sunday Mass





































## Safety

#### **Dispensation from Mass**

As a reminder, the dispensation from the requirement to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Those who are most vulnerable and at a greater risk (due to age, preexisting health conditions or being in close proximity to vulnerable people) are encouraged to remain home at this time.

If a person shows any symptoms of illness, they are asked to please not come to church. We encourage you to join us for Mass online on the parish website stwilliam.org

#### **Overflow Space**

We do have overflow space in the Abbey for Masses. Please follow the directions of our Ushers if the Church reaches capacity and you are asked to attend the Mass in the Abbey.

# While attending Mass during this difficult time

- Please sanitize your hands
- If you are a family please occupy a pew
- Be kind and considerate
- Please keep social distance
- Don't congregate in the Church or parking lot before or after Mass
- Touch a bulletin, please bring it home

Love for our neighbors should be one of the primary considerations.

#### **Safety Protocols**

As more of you are returning back to in-person Mass, we want to reemphasize 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.



#### Communion by Car Line for High-Risk Individuals

Please consider virtual Mass if you are high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.

Weather permitting, we will continue to offer outdoor Communion (via car line) on Sundays at 1 PM, following the live-streamed Mass at 12 PM.

#### **Holy Communion**

Because of concerns regarding the coronavirus, we request that those who choose to receive on the tongue wait at the end of the line. Please present themselves to the priest only to receive Holy Communion, and are asked to open their mouth and extend their tongue so the host can be placed on it without the priest's hand making contact with the recipient.

If you choose to receive in the hand, please place your hand out very straight and flat to allow the priest or minister to place the Eucharist safely in order to avoid contact with your hand. We also kindly remind everyone to please remove your mask before receiving Holy Communion, whether you choose to receive on the tongue or in the hand. Please put it back on after you have consumed the host.

## Holy Communion

When it is time to receive Holy Communion, please practice social distancing as you walk in the communion line. On the way back to your pew please maintain spacing. Everyone will come down the center aisles to receive communion. Please do not rush back to your seats.

#### Arrive Early & Wear Your Mask



We do ask that everyone arrive early so that we can seat everyone 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.



#### Sacristy

For the safety of our Priests, we ask that parishioners refrain from entering the Sacristy. Please do not hand offering envelopes, letters etc. to the Priests. Please drop them off in the Rectory Mail Slot.

We Pray for all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit. For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety. For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace,comfort, and healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen. ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT RC CHURCH



# Join Fr. Joe, Fr. James, & Fr. Collins

Andratories of the source of t
Name:
Email:
Phone:
Amount of Painters:Total amount enclosed:

Please mail or drop off the registration form to the Rectory office. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis until spots are filled.

Paint Night Fundraiser

#### **Fun Facts**

Come witness Fr. James. Fr. Joes, & Fr. Collins painting skills

A great night for couples, families, and friends

Spots are first.

come first serve.

50/50 raffle

Dessert

Pizza

Over 20 baskets to raffles

#### PODCAST CONVERSATIONS WITH PODRE



WEEKLY PODCAST EPISODES POSTED ON WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM

Associate Pastor FR. JAMES HANSEN



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LISTEN ON: **FIVE PODCAST EPISODES AVAILABLE ON** SPOTIFY.COM  $\bigcirc$ APPLE PODCAST AND

STWILLIAM.ORG

#### Holy Saturday - Blessing of the Food 9:30 am

#### Virtually on the parish website live-streamed

Blessing of the Easter Baskets. In many Easter European countries, is is a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. After the blessing, the food is usually set aside until Easter morning when the head of the house shares the blessed egg, symbol of life, with family and friends. Having exchanged wishes, all continue to enjoy a hearty meal.



Butter - Shaped into a lamb. Represents the Paschal lamb.

Babka (bread) - Symbolic of Jesus, the bread of life. Horseradish - Represents the Passion of Christ, the bitterness Christ's suffering.

Hardboiled colored eggs - Represents new life and Christ's Resurrection.

Kielbasa - Represents God's favor and generosity sending His Son to free us.

Ham - Representative of joy and abundance.

Salt - As a result of baptism, you are the salt of the earth. The faith. hope, and love of Jesus followers give zest and meaning to life, preserving all that is good.

Wine - Represents Christ's bloodshed on the cross. Candle - Represents Christ as the Light of the World. Basket Ribbons - Represents joy and new life.

Linen Cover - Covers the top and represents the shroud of Christ.

Vinegar - In memory of the gall given to Christ of the cross.

Sweets (candies) - Represents the sweetness of the heavenly kingdom.

### **PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY**

#### US Air Force -

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

#### USMC -

Lt. Kevin J. Butler 2nd Lt. Dana Duggan Corporal Frank A Finochio L.Cpl. John Mosier

#### US Navy -

Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald Ian Bayer, Ensign Rebecca Bayer, Ensign Ensign Michael Napolitano MMN2 Emily Partridge Commander Michael Sean Slatley

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

Lt. James Knudsen **Daniel Timpanaro** LT. Commander Katherine Ustler Frank Pristera

#### US Army -

Sqt. 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

#### US Army -

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

### **Staying Connected**

With St. William the Abbot visit us at **stwilliam.org** to view our bulletin online, presider schedule, and see other parish information.



Facebook: Find us at: stwilliamabbot



Instagram: Follow us: @stwilliamabbot

YouTube: Find us at: YouTube.com — St. William the Abbot Church

## **Parish Contact Information**

#### **CONTACT THE PRIESTS**

Please send your email to 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.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Please send your email to igomez@stwilliam.org.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTORY**

Please send your email to information@stwilliam.org.

#### **CONTACT THE BUSINESS MANAGER**

Please send your email to jgoldman@stwilliam.org.

CONTACT FAITH FORMATION Please send your email to faithformation@stwilliam.org or contact the office directly at (516) 783-2528.

#### **CONTACT SOCIAL MINISTRY**

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

#### **CONTACT THE SCHOOL** St. William the Abbot School



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

## **Parish Social Ministry**

### **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 By Appointment Only

### **Food Pantry**

Canned Chicken Green Peas Laundry Detergent Black Beans Kidney Beans Chick Peas



Thank you to everyone that donated Easter gift cards and baskets to the Parish Social Ministry. Your generosity will allow us to bring the joy of Easter to the many families that we serve. We are so grateful for your support!

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Bereavement

Although we are not yet holding in-person Bereavement Ministry sessions, trained facilitators are available to support you in your grief journey. Let us help you to find peace while dealing with your loss. Please call Parish Social Ministry at 679-8532 so we can discuss support options currently available.

## 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 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

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:



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia!* Around the world and across Long Island, we proclaim this marvelous truth. Good news is ours. Sin and death have been vanquished. Christ has conquered. God is victorious!

In light of the suffering and death of the past year, how blessed we are to behold again the Mystery of the Resurrection. These months have been dark and bleak. They have been long and challenging. Yet, as we encounter Easter 2021, we are reminded that God has the final word. Indeed, *Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:5). This Light, Jesus Christ, illumines our path. He gives hope. As the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council said:

Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful. Apart from His Gospel, they overwhelm us. Christ has risen, destroying death by His death; He has lavished life upon us so that...we can cry out in the Spirit: Abba, Father.<sup>1</sup>

With significant challenges facing us still on Long Island and across the globe, with darkness still afoot, perhaps the joy of Easter is difficult to embrace. Our hearts maybe like those of the disciples who went on Easter dawn to anoint the Lord's body. At the strange sight of an empty tomb and an apparently absent Jesus, instead of experiencing immediate joy, they were confused and distressed. Only in seeing the Lord face to face did they come to embrace His rising from the dead.

Like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, we need to see Christ alive among us. We need to see the Resurrection in our midst. So, this Easter, let us ask, "Where is Christ alive?"

Christ is alive in the countless frontline workers, civil servants, and medical professionals who have served so faithfully and so heroically this past year. Their sacrificial love and Good Samaritan-willingness to help neighbors in need radiate the Lord Jesus!

Christ is alive in the catechumens who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Their reception of the Sacraments reminds us of the power of our own Baptism – where each of us has died with Christ and risen with Him to new life.

Above all, Christ is alive in His risen and glorified presence in the Eucharist and in the transforming power of His Body and Blood that we receive in the celebration of the Mass. Christ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes* (December 7, 1965), 22, in *The Documents of Vatican Council II* (St. Paul's Publications, 2009).

is alive, and therefore the Church is alive. The Eucharist is the source of this life – and its power has become perhaps more evident than ever, after months of separation from the weekly and daily celebration of the Mass. Together, we recall the disciples' recognition of Jesus following the Resurrection at Emmaus in the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of the Bread. We are grateful for the many ways in which our parishes and schools have continued to foster creatively this Emmaus experience on Long Island, both in-person and virtually. May we continue to recognize the Sunday Eucharist as the source from which the life of the Resurrected Christ bursts forth into the world.

At his Sunday Angelus on January 3, 2021, Pope Francis beautifully reminded us of Christ's continued presence in our midst:

"I like to think that when the Lord prays to the Father for us, he does not merely speak: he shows him the wounds of the flesh, he shows him the wounds he suffered for us. This is Jesus: with his flesh he is the intercessor, he wanted to bear even the signs of suffering. Jesus, with his flesh, is before the Father. Indeed, the Gospel says that *He came to dwell among us*. He did not come to visit us, and then leave; He came to dwell with us, to stay with us."<sup>2</sup>

May we continue to encounter the presence of Jesus Christ who dwells in and through His Church. May we continue to experience signs of His Resurrection even amidst the challenges and crosses we embrace, and may this encounter continue to fill our hearts, so that our voices can confidently cry out: *The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia!* 

Faithfully in the Lord,

Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Francis, Angelus, 3 January, 2021. http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papafrancesco\_angelus\_20210103.html

