

St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020**



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

Parish Information

Office: 516.785.1266
2000 Jackson Avenue
Seaford, NY 11783
stwilliam.org

He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." - John 1:23



The Third Sunday of Advent

Today is Gaudete Sunday when we shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice as you light the pink candle on your Advent wreath.

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.

Pray for the Sick

Nicholas Ortiz

Diane Kimbley

Jimmy Smith

Pray for the Deceased

Joseph S. Del Gais

Betty M. Kole

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 14, 2020

Tim Farrall

Lois Gallagher

Josephine Rapanaro

Eleanor Johnson

Pres. Donald Trump

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Donald & Michael Ustler

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Dylan Gorge Olivia

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Raymond Zorn

Friday, December 18, 2020

Gus Interrante

Saturday, December 19, 2020

Purgatorial Society

People of St. William

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Nocturnal Adoration

Dennis Smith & Robert Coughlin

Msgr. William Varvaro

Peter DiCarlo

Domenico D'Armi

Sean Collins

Joseph Ventimiglia

Gaudete - The Promise of the Father

Even in this time of wrapping presents and decorating the house, at the core of all that we do, underneath it all, the Season of Advent is connecting us to the Incarnation. God becomes man and makes His dwelling in our midst. Yes, that happened 2000 years ago, but it also happens today in and through us as disciples - in the Spirit of goodness and generosity that Love comes alive in us. Although 2020, and especially these past nine months have been extremely challenging, we are invited to look at this third week of Advent as a time to rejoice. That is what the Liturgical word Gaudete means, To Rejoice! The Rose/Pink candle on the Advent wreath is lighter than the others; it is showing the glimpses, the streaks of Christ's Light preparing to enter into the world and our hearts. And we need that Light now more than ever.

As believers we look at the coming of Jesus as a time to renew us and restore us. For some of us, our faith journey can be a challenge in the midst of all the other "things" we have to do, or task lists we have to complete. Church, or prayer, or faith formation is another box to check or rules to follow. We can miss the beautiful invitation into a relationship and friendship set firmly on the foundation of friendship and love. Jesus entered into this world and was met with the "mess" of the stable, cluttered, smelly, and not the ideal or perfect situation for a baby to be born. That sounds like the reality of my life, my family, and the ministry I have been blessed to be entrusted with here at St. William's - it can be messy at times. Maybe you can identify with that as well, and we can feel unworthy for Christ to enter in. We feel the need to tidy everything up and be perfect before we can welcome the Lord. When the rules are followed perfectly, when every decision we make is morally sound, basically when our "house is in order" - then we can let God in. That lie is being fed to us by the Evil One to discourage us from connection and relationship with a God who loves us and rejoices over us.

Pope Benedict so beautifully wrote: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." We have all had that experience when you walk away from meeting someone and our lives are changed forever. For some of you that led to making a career change, for others the college you chose to attend, and for others the person you would walk down the aisle with. Coming to know God can only happen when we, like Mary, remain open and docile to His movement. Are we paying attention to that in this season of our lives? Our faith and knowledge of God becomes a deeper reality in a personal and profound experience of Jesus Christ and of his love. Where have you experienced that intimacy of Christ's closeness, His friendship, and His love? Is it in the awe and wonder of your children preparing for December 25th? Is it in the smell of a fresh Christmas tree, and the time taken to decorate it? The singing of Advent and Christmas Carols? An act of kindness at the grocery or department store? Is it the thoughtful inquiry of a sick family member? These are small glimpses of Jesus revealing Himself to us, and ways for us to reveal Him to the world.

"Rejoice in the Lord, I say it again, Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). My sisters and brothers, that scripture verse is not a suggestion, but hopefully a way of life for us. To know that a loving God has chosen us as His favored and beloved children, even in the midst of trial, and difficulty is a cause to rejoice. We do not walk alone, and so we are instructed to be a people of joy and hope. As we look to these next few weeks which will draw us closer to Christmas, may we also look for those real signs of God's presence and intimacy. In our Baptismal call as disciples we know the "Spirit of the Lord" has come upon us to be proclaimers of glad tidings to the poor in Spirit, the brokenhearted, and those imprisoned by sadness, anger, or doubt. John the Baptist is not the only one who is called to testify to the Light, but all of us are. Jesus is coming and is already here - let us make straight the paths into our souls, our families, and our parish by preparing for the arrival of the Savior. Certainly, with the decorations, shopping, baking, and songs, but also with quiet time, prayer, mass, and confession. These next two weeks allow us to make the scriptures come alive, and Jesus more present when we become the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, we become the light in the darkness, we become the hope in a world that is hurting.

In gratitude for your presence and generosity.

Peace,

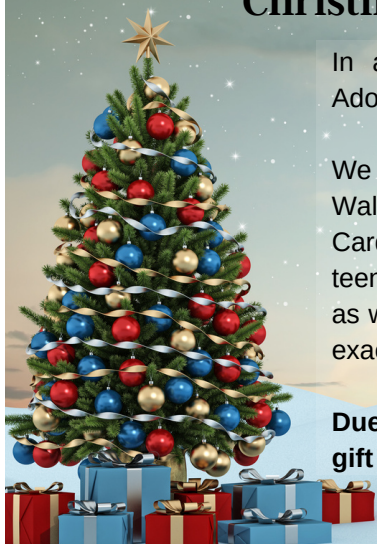


Christmas Star Program

In addition to the requested gifts in the Adopt-A-Family program.

We will be in need of Gift Cards to Target, Walmart, Westfield Mall, and VISA. Gift Cards are always a welcomed gift for teenagers who like to do their own shopping as well as for parents who can purchase the exact gift their child has requested.

Due to safety reasons, please drop off all gift cards in the Rectory drop box.



Christmas Flowers

It has been the tradition of St. William's for parishioners to contribute toward the purchase of our beautiful Christmas flowers and decorations. Envelopes are available for this purpose. You may place your contribution in the envelope and place the envelope in the collection basket or drop it off in the Rectory. Thank you for your generosity, our Church is transformed every year on Christmas Day.

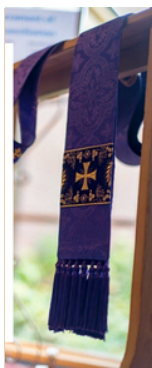


Advent Reconciliation

Before the days of Christmas get too busy, please join us on **December 19, from 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM.**

**Advent Prayer and Reconciliation -
Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM.**

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



Banns of Marriage II

Kevin Sostowski

SWA

&

Lauren Murphy

SWA



Please Be Considerate

Please be considerate during the upcoming holidays. Many of the Masses are crowded and parking is difficult. **Please do not block any driveways or the parishes garages.** Try to arrive early and allow time to find parking. Keep in mind that there is a parking lot behind the school. Thank you!



The Bread and Wine used at the Mass this week have been donated

In loving memory of
Frank Rughetta, Jr.

from his wife Helen Rughetta.

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.



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

Food Pantry

CANNED BEEF STEW

CHEF BOYARDEE

BREAD CRUMBS

WHITE RICE

APPLES

SHAMPOO

CONDITIONER

DETERGENT

Faith Formation

This Season always seems to go by fast. We start the 3rd Week of Advent and light the rose color candle, which signifies joy. That means Jesus Christ, our Messiah is almost here! Yes, he was born already, and Jesus is already with us, but we are preparing again in our hearts for his love is so strong for us. Remember how you felt waiting for your own child or even someone else you know was expecting a child to be born? Perhaps you were thrilled and maybe even scared, not knowing what to expect. Just imagine how Mother Mary and Joseph felt leaving everything and even family to protect the unborn child, Jesus, and not knowing where they were going. And how much joy they also felt for the waiting of the Birth of Jesus. They too must have felt afraid but left their worries and concerns in God's hands. For they knew by praying, God would guide them of where and what to do. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in everyday life and just do not know what to do or where to go when feeling overwhelmed. We say to ourselves, "No I can do this, or I don't need anyone's help", but we all need help at times and it is okay to let go and have others help you. God gave us his only son, Jesus, so that he would be one of us. Jesus was scared and overwhelmed at times and he too asked for help. At this time of Advent Season amongst all the running around, decorating and just getting ready, we need to slow down, take time out to sit as a family and discuss your day, pray together, prepare your hearts, and let Jesus come into you. Remember, Jesus is always here for us in more ways than one. Peace to all of you.

The Faith Formation had their next phase of Parent Sessions, which Fr. Joe, Mrs. Laura Walsh, and Michele Atanasio discussed about Advent, the Birth of Jesus Christ, and had Adoration. Do you know why the wreath is a circle or why there are candles? The circle represents Jesus' love for us never ends and the candles are the light of Jesus. Jesus was born to give us life and to be one of us. He is with us always.

Parents were given a take home sheet for their child. If you were not able to attend and would like one, notify the Office. Please note that the Faith Formation Office has a new phone number 516-783-2528.



The Florio Family made their own Advent Wreath.



Antonia Timiani is excited to read her booklet every day and add a sticker to her card.



Thank You!

Thank you Alfred Allongo, Cathy Cain, Mike Lorio, the Maintenance Staff, and all of our parishioners who volunteered and assisted in decorating the Church for Christmas. #unitedinfaith

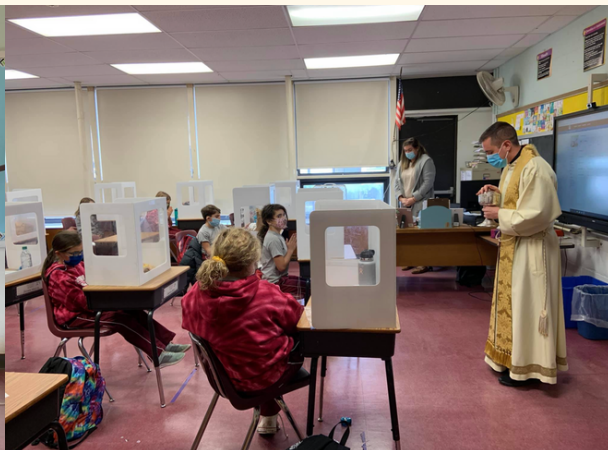


Ms. Flynn and Mrs. I's Preschool Class!

Before our short Thanksgiving break, our class focused on counting our blessings! We spent the week talking about how blessed we are, and things that we are thankful for. We created cards for a special person, and used our handprints to make a Turkey. In the card we showed our loved ones



Our class had a special and safe Thanksgiving feast on Wednesday. We created place mats to eat on and in the middle we drew pictures of how blessed we are. We also said a special prayer before eating about how grateful we are for all that we have.



Fr. Joe and Fr. James distributed Communion to the students on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

STUMP THE PRIEST !



Question: Fathers Joe, James and Collins, please help me out. I want to be much more prayerful but I don't really get to pray as I would want to; any suggestions of ways and means to help me pray more, please?

Beloved of God, constant prayer should absolutely be an integral part of the daily living of every Christian. This is particularly because Christ our Lord and Master prayed ceaselessly from the start of his ministry unto the time he breathed his last on the cross. So here are some recommended practices to help you develop the all-important life of constant prayer:

When you feel you can't find words to express in prayer, remember 'The Lord's Prayer' or 'The Our Father' given as the most perfect of all prayers. Then the Angel's greeting to the Blessed Mother which has developed into what is popularly known as "The Hail Mary." You can pray any of these prayers repetitively as would fill up the amount of time you would want to spend in prayer. They cover sufficiently all you need to ask for in Prayer.

These two powerful prayers added to a reflection on the mysteries of our faith give us the Rosary. If you find it hard praying the Rosary alone, you can bring the members of the household together to pray. You can be praying the rosary even as you walk the dog or as you walk alone. (in this case that small type of rosary with just about thirteen beads on it would be recommended when you don't want to be seen at prayer.) You can also download rosary App on your cell phone and connect it to your audio system in the car, or buy a CD of the rosary prayer so you could be praying even as you drive to and from work.

You can also open your Bible to the Psalms and pray any of them that suit the mood or situation you find yourself in. There are enough Psalms for every situation we find ourselves in.

Sitting still and silent in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament even without uttering any words is another perfect form of prayer. Whenever and wherever you find the occasion, do that.

Prayer doesn't have to be always long words. We have examples of short prayers in the scriptures that got people what they wanted. These include:

- "Lord be merciful to me a sinner" (the Prayer of the Tax collector in the Temple
- "Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom"(the prayer of the thief crucified with Jesus.
- "Son of David, have pity on me." (the prayer of the blind Bartimaeus)
- Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (the prayer of Jesus on the Cross)

These are but examples of some short but perfect prayers you can say in the midst of your busy daily schedule. You can create your own short ones that suit your needs at any particular moment of your life.

Don't tie prayers to certain hours of the day, or to some specific locations like within the Church, in front of a statue, the grotto and the like. This practice can make you put off prayer because you are not at your favorite spot for prayer or that the hour of prayer has passed. You can pray at any time anywhere.

Reading and meditating on God's Word is a good way to pray.

Buy a prayer book which contains Catholic Devotional prayers to the saints, to angels and for various occasions and situations of life.

If you can sing a song or mentally follow along the lyrics of a hymn or any religious song, that is also a form of prayer.

Sometimes you can also simply sit still admiring the beauty of God's creation around you- the moon, the sun, the stars, the birds, the rivers, the seas and the ocean among others, praising and thanking God for them.

When you are at prayer and some distractions come to your mind or some sounds around you disturb, incorporate all of these sounds and distractions in prayer. Wherever and whatever your mind sends you to, make them a part of the prayer and they wouldn't be distractions any longer. Pray about anything and everything.

Beyond all these, there come the times, days and moments when you just don't have the desire or the feeling of praying. This can happen when you think of yourself as too sinful and hence unworthy to go before God. This is one of the tactics of Satan. After luring Adam and Eve to sin he made them feel afraid of God and therefore hide themselves from him even when God was calling and searching for them: "Where are you". Whenever you are drawn to thoughts of your unworthiness before God, remember these texts of Scripture: "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." (Mt. 9:13) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." (Lk 19:10) "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). "...Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more." (Rom. 5:20)

After reflecting on these, go for confession as soon as possible.

These suggestions will be good to help you be efficient and effective in prayer. Thank you.

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass

2:00 PM - Outside (Weather Permitting)

4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, and 8:30 PM
Church, Abbey, & School Auditorium

The 4:00 PM Mass will be live-streamed on the parish website stwilliam.org

Midnight Mass on Christmas Day

11:00 PM Church

Christmas Day Mass

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, and 12:30 PM
Church, Abbey, & School Auditorium

The 9:30 AM Mass will be live-streamed on the parish website stwilliam.org



Christmas Decor Items for Memorialization



Memorialization Form

Please indicate the quantity of the item selected.

2 Needed - 10'-11' Fraser Fir Trees (Sanctuary) \$350 each: Quantity _____

8 Needed - 12" Wreaths for outside doors of church \$35 each: Quantity _____

30 Needed - Red poinsettias 6" for Sanctuary/Shrines \$20 each: Quantity _____

45 Needed - White Calandiva 4 ½" for Sanctuary \$15 each: Quantity _____

Name: _____

Name for Memorialization: _____

Contact Number: _____ Email: _____

Check/Cash Total: _____

Please return this form to the Rectory with payment by mail or to the drop-box.
All Memorializations will be on a first-come first serve basis.

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.



LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

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

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.

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 MUSIC MINISTRY

Please send your email to mgeorgetti@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 THE SCHOOL St. William the Abbot School



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

Prayers for those in the Military

US Navy -

Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald
Ensign Michael Napolitano
MMN2 Emily Partridge
Commander Michael Sean Slatley

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
Sgt. Brian Kirby
Major Eamon G. McArdle
Sgt. Donald Rogers
Major Christopher James Ustler
Major Kurtis Unger

USMC -

Lt. Kevin J. Butler
2nd Lt. Dana Duggan
Corporal Frank A Finochio
Private John Mosier
Sgt. Robert Nesci
LCpl Christopher Russell

US Air Force -

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

US Coast Guard -

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

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.

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.

Saint Lucia


To celebrate Saint Lucia, girls around the world wear wreaths with candles on their heads. They wake up their families with special treats and sweets to celebrate the Christmas season. What nice thing can you do to help your family get excited for Christmas?





Catholic Kids

December 13, 2020
Advent
Color: Rose



Bulletin


OWEMYPSOULDPREJOIEJWO

BLKEJGODPWOEISO


My soul
rejoices in
my God.

BKEREJOICESPWIES

BLKEJINPWKLEJMYPOKWEIZOSK



Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means, "To rejoice." The pink candle reminds us to rejoice because Jesus is coming.






Countdown to Jesus' Birthday...

2

Sundays!

Gospel



John the Baptist was a great man and people thought he might be the Messiah. He told them that a greater man was coming. They were waiting for Jesus!



St. William the Abbot
Roman Catholic Church



Reserve Your Commemorative 2020 Christmas Ornament Now!

\$20 Each

Ornaments are 3.5" inches in diameter
laser engraved cherry wood

Limited quantities available.

Name: _____

Tel Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Quantity Ordered: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Please return to Rectory drop box or by mail. Pick-up instructions will be emailed to you.

New Year's Eve Ball Drop Raffle

How it works:

When you enter the raffle you'll be assigned a numbered golf ball (entries are \$100 each) and you'll receive an email with your number once your entry has been processed.

On NYE all the numbered golf balls will be dropped from a height at the same time trying to hit one target.

We'll measure to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and we'll announce the winners on the live stream and on our socials.

*Cash prizes will be based on total number of entries
and announced closer to the event.*

**Join us on stwilliam.org at 4pm on
New Year's Eve to watch!**



St. William the Abbot
Roman Catholic Church

NYE Ball Drop Entry Form

Name: _____

Tel Number: _____ Email: _____

Number of Entries: _____ Check Total: _____

Please return cash or check to Rectory drop box or by mail.

Due to the limited number of entries, number requests cannot be honored.