

St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

Solemnity of All Saints November 1, 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

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you. - Matthew 5:12

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.

Baptism

Ciara Grace Elliot

Rowan Lazarus

Nathan Bencivenga

Olivia Rose Reilly

Harrison Joseph Hessel

Reagan Mary Kay Judge

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

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.

Pray for the Sick

James Pecoraro

Collin Clive

Antoinette Richards

Anthony Ferrara

Lois Gallagher

Pray for the Deceased

Janet Tierney

John E. Lloyd

Edward F. Marsh

Alade Baby Hope

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 2, 2020

Daniel Hugh Reid

Kathleen A. Kern

Sick & Deceased Friends of the Ursuline Sisters

All Souls' Day

Paul Murray

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

All Souls' Day

Thomas & Catherine Gallagher

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

All Souls' Day

Thursday, November 5, 2020

All Souls' Day

Robert T. Hewitt

Friday, November 6, 2020

All Souls' Day

Mary Surico

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Purgatorial Society

All Souls' Day

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Anthony Salerno

Catherine Costa

Joseph Ippoliti

Ryan Lacertosa

Clementina Ferrari

All Souls' Day

Martha E. Ottinger

People of St. William

All Saints Day - Let's All BE Saints

"The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint." This quote from Catholic novelist Leon Bloy is more than simply a pious thought; it speaks of the deepest desire of our hearts for God and for human excellence. These past eight months I have seen the Saints of Seaford rise up, from our first responders each day putting themselves in harm's way, family members caretaking and visiting loved ones, our funeral home workers responding with great dignity at the death of so many, the young Church attempting to reach out and serve the elderly and isolated, and longstanding ministries attempting to keep the SWA family connected. To be a Saint is not only to be a priest or nun from 800 years ago, it is making the Gospel relevant and come alive today - in the midst of a Global Pandemic, right here in the Parish of St. William.

The hope for us is to look ahead in this time of transition to how our parish will engage the "whole" family and to reach out beyond the four walls of the Church building. To become "Saint Equippers" - meaning, giving the tools of the faith not just to the child going through a sacrament, or the couple getting married, or the loved one being anointed, but to ensure that the whole family encounters the Lord in the celebration of the Sacrament, or the Formation of the Faithful, or the outreach to the most needy or vulnerable. Father Collins reminded me of the ancient African Proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child." The same can be said about the raising of future Saints, and disciples. The great commission of Jesus at the end of Matthew's Gospel is to "go and make disciples" and this must be our mission and 'culture' here at St. William the Abbot. Our homework assignment from God is to identify those who are searching for Him, and then journey with them, be companions with them. We only have to look at the debacle of religious education for the past 40 years, and at times the failure of Catholic schools, in thinking that if we just drop our children off at the front door, and then drive away, some magical transformation will occur. It takes all of us being intentionally engaged in raising up Saints!

Civic Duty

I wanted to also take this time to encourage you to get out and Vote this week. We know that every election is important, but as you pray and discern about who you will cast your ballot for, be sure you are aware of how the result of this election will impact your Catholic Faith and Values. We have included tools for the last few weeks to assist in forming our consciences to discern well and cast our vote to protect our freedoms and rights as beloved Sons and Daughters of God. The Declaration of Independence reinforces those unalienable and foundational rights - beginning with "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." As Catholics and Americans, we pray for those protections, especially for the most vulnerable. Padre Pio reminds us - Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry. But please, do your part - Vote.

Answering a Few Questions

When will our ministries, groups, and clubs be able to meet again?

Until we have a better handle on the upswing of recent Corona cases, we will still limit the exposure of people in the sanctuary (EM's, Altar Servers), and also push back a 'start' date of any other onsite ministries until the after the New Year. At that point we will reassess the effects of the virus, general safety, and cleaning protocols. I am happy to announce that many of you have been creatively connecting by Zoom meetings, backyard fire pit meetings, on-line rosary praying, and front porch/front stoop visits. So, the ministries appear to be happening in a new "missionary" way, please keep it up!

What's with the gates and fences at the parking lots?

We are so blessed that people feel a comfort to come to the SWA campus to pray near the statues, walk their children and grandchildren safely around the parking lot, and even occasionally play ball on the fields and courts. However, we have noticed during the past few weeks and months there has been an upswing in those not respecting the sacredness of the Church property and our neighbors, especially at night. The parking lot has become a haven for late night "donut spins," trash drops for unsupervised youth with nowhere to go, overnight homeless shelter, and a "rendezvous" meeting point for lonely people (unfortunately the security cameras have revealed that). Our hope is the gates will deter this recent phenomenon.

We've noticed wires around the inside of the Church, what is happening?

The sound system project has finally begun. In the next two weeks between the regular masses, funerals, weddings, and baptisms, the sound company will be renovating the Church with hard wires, innovative sound technology, speakers, and clear microphones. I pray this will alleviate the many "dead zones" currently present in the Church, and will also enhance the Livestream experience for those joining us through technology. The last tweaks to the organ project will be complete as well.

Can you please address safety at the side exits/entrances? Since the renovation almost 20 years ago, the side exits have become hazardous during inclement weather (snow and rain). With our current exit protocol there is more foot traffic. Will anything be remedied as we go into Fall (slippery leaves) and Winter (snow pile up)?

Yes, in the next week or so, we will be placing awnings/canopies at those doors to assure a safe clear pathway, and handrails will be installed for sturdy support on the way out of Church.

There were more questions from you, and I will address them in the upcoming weeks. Let us pray for our nation and our families as we move through election season and draw closer to Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. May we be united in faith, and united in Christ. As always, thank you for your presence and generosity.

Peace,



Feast of All Souls

On Monday, November 2 at 7:30pm, there will be a special Mass in which the people whose funerals were held at St. William the Abbot this past year will be remembered. All are invited to attend this special Mass.

Thanksgiving Baskets

This is a great opportunity to involve your family in the message of thanksgiving and what it means to be Christ to others. We are also accepting food store gift cards that the families can use to purchase their thanksgiving day meal. Kindly bring your donations to Parish Social Ministry office by November 17 so we have enough time for distribution.



This thanksgiving will be different from what many of us usually experience but to the families we assist through our Outreach Program there is still a great need for your assistance. Please consider making a small gift basket or simply a plastic bag filled with thanksgiving related food items.

Thanksgiving Basket Item Suggestions:

Mashed Potatoes	Canned Fruit
Stuffing	Pudding
Assorted Vegetables	Jello
Cranberry Sauce	Festive Napkins
Gravy	Desserts
Apple Cider	Apple Juice

LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

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

WALKERS & ROLLATORS - If you or a family member are in need of a walker or rollator please call Parish Social Ministry 679-8532 to arrange for you to pick up or we can also deliver. We also have shower chairs and sometimes we have wheelchairs.

Rectory News

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

A Catholic's Guide to Halloween

Halloween Facts

The true substance of Halloween belongs to the Catholic Church.

Halloween is a derivative of All Hallows' Eve. It is the vigil of All Saints (All Hallows) Day. All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation, and thus a major feast on the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar.

Halloween (October 31st) is indeed connected with All Saints Day (November 1st) and All Souls Day (November 2nd).

Halloween is, therefore, the first day of Allhallowtide, the time of year when the living (i.e. the Church Militant) honor all the dead in Christ: the saints in heaven (i.e. the Church Triumphant) as well as all the holy souls in purgatory on their way to heaven (i.e. the Church Suffering). It is a beautiful celebration of the Communion of Saints!

Halloween begins the celebration of these Christian holy days to remind the Faithful of the reality of heaven and hell; the saints and the damned; demons and angels; and the holy souls suffering in purgatory.

The custom of dressing up for Halloween is devotional in spirit. By dressing up as the saints whom we most admire, we imagine ourselves following their example of Christian discipleship.

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

Ketchup
Canned Beets
Diced Tomatoes
Canned Beef Stew
Chili

Mashed Potatoes
Brown Rice
Coffee
Jello
Syrup

ADULT DIAPERS - We have a supply of various sizes of adult diapers and pads for incontinence. If you can use them just call Parish Social Ministry (516) 679-8532

Faith Formation

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

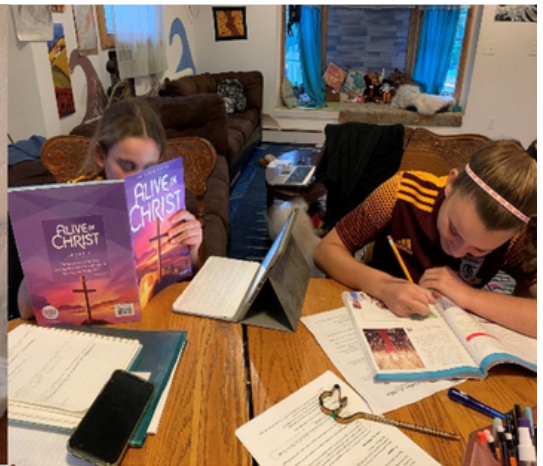
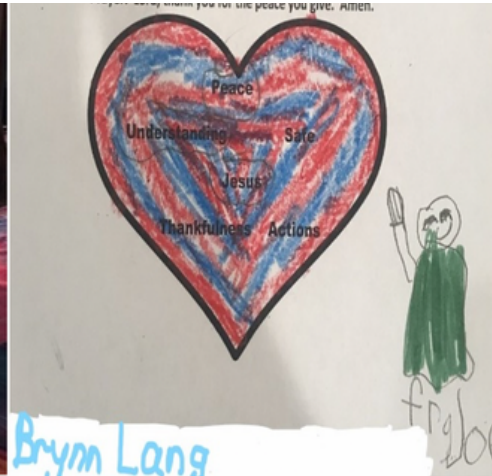
Today as the Church remembers the men and women who were declared Saints, it is fitting that the Gospel reading is about Jesus' teaching on how to be happy in the Beatitudes.

As our students and their families continue to work on chapters regarding God's Revelation, they too are seeking ways in which they can follow Jesus' example in their lives by praying more, doing kind deeds and discerning how to make good choices. Two of our 8th graders took time to reflect and pray about living a life of holiness by the choices they make and the ways in which they treat others. The following are excerpts from their reflections:

"Holiness that comes from love shows in your actions. When we live for the good of others, we show God's glory and when we live like that we will go to heaven when we die." Anthony Margiotta

"One thing I can do to improve in making good choices would be to ask myself, "What would Jesus do in this situation?" My father has taught me that when I have a difficult choice to make, to do a few things: one is to pray to God and the Holy Spirit for guidance. A second way is to make a pros and cons list of the results of the choice that I face, and then to choose accordingly from there. David Lorenzo

These are our future saints and are practicing being poor in spirit. Let us follow their examples and look at the Beatitudes as a means in which we can live the Christian life.



**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



Every year the Seaford Lions sponsor a Peace Poster Contest and the grade six students of SWS participate. This year under the direction of St. William's Art teacher, Patricia Calcano, the students illustrated the theme, Peace Through Service. This year's winners are Luke Russell, first place, Shannon Miller, second place, and Antonina Normandia, third place. Congratulations to all our winners! #WeAreStWilliams #inspiredtoexcel



#WeAreStWilliams





Magic of Lights Jones Beach Fundraising Event

St. William the Abbot RC Church will receive \$5 for every ticket purchased using our official code through 11/7.

Visit <https://magicoflights.com/events/jonesbeach> to purchase 2020 Magic of Lights at Jones Beach tickets. Click on the "unlock" option after selecting how many tickets you want and enter passcode: **STWILLIAM**

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 THE RECTORY

Please send your email to information@stwilliam.org.

CONTACT THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Please send your email to jgoldman@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) 679-9558.

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.

CONTACT THE SCHOOL

St. William the Abbot School



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



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to "fall back."

Knights of Columbus

Memorare Council 3476 – Recruitment Drive

The Knights of Columbus are considered to be the right arm of the Catholic Church. We are dedicated to serving our local Priests, Parishes and the community. In the past few years we have donated tens of thousands to not-for-profit organizations, contributed food to the needy and volunteered at local shelters. We are seeking others to join our ranks, stand up for the ideals of the Catholic Church and make our community better for all. Please consider becoming a Knight. For more information, please visit our website memorarekofc.org or email the Grand Knight Ben Vogt memoraregrandknight@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Respect Life – Birthright

Pregnant? Need Help?

24 Hour Hotline – 1-800-550-4900

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, The unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God's creation And deserving of the utmost reverence and respect".

- Pope Francis' Day of Life Greeting

My Favorite Saint

Draw a picture of your favorite saint.

WLSOLOORDPTHISOWKISTHE

BPZLYOURPCKFACEL

Lord, this is
the people
that longs to
see your face.

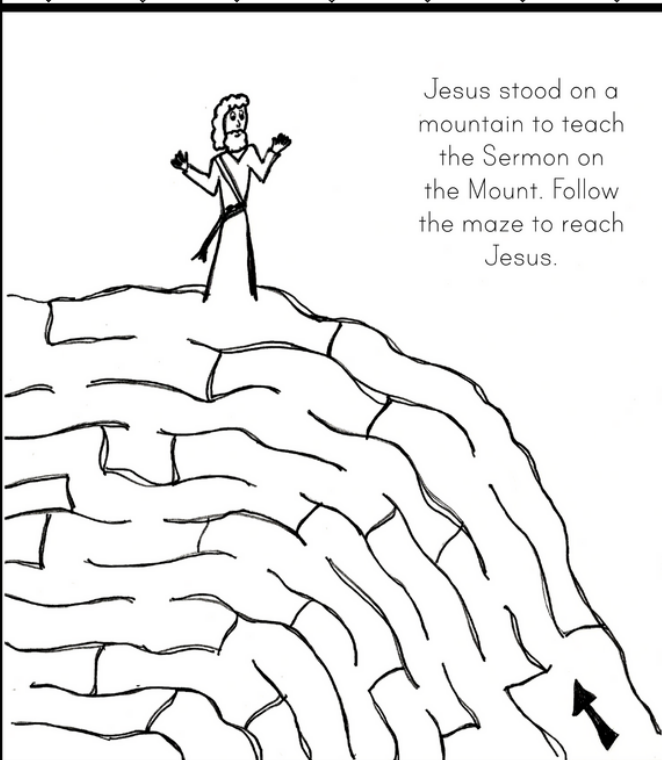
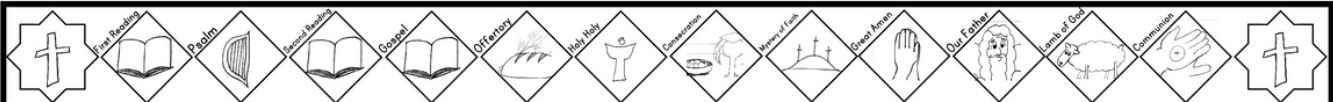
WAPEOPLESOKTHAT

AGHLONGSWPTOLSSEEWOTKEHI



Today's Mass is about the saints in Heaven. Are there pictures and statues of saints in your church? Do you know the names of any of the saints?

Saint _____
Help Me Grow In Faith!



Jesus stood on a mountain to teach the Sermon on the Mount. Follow the maze to reach Jesus.

Beatitudes!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

Blessed are the

16 5 1 3 5 13 1 11 5 18 19

for they will be called
children of God



Jesus was teaching to his disciples. These teachings are called the beatitudes. Listen carefully to learn how Jesus asks us to live. Beatitudes are blessings to help us be happy with God.



Reconciliation

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



Personal Prayer

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



Eucharistic Adoration

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



Rosary

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



Miraculous Medal

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



St. Peregrine

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



What is RCIA?

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

How long does it take to become Catholic?

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

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

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

Are their tests or homework?

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

Can you become Catholic if you are divorced?

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

What are these rituals?

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

How much does all this cost?

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

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

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

What does Catechumen mean?

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

What do RCIA sessions look like?

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

What is a sponsor?

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

Can children be in RCIA?

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

Can I accompany someone to RCIA sessions?

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

How does someone get started in RCIA?

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

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

2020

Civil Dialogue: A response to Jesus' call to love our neighbor

Jesus uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to answer a question that is both searing and simple: "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10: 29). Our familiarity with this parable makes it easy for us now to identify as "neighbor" those on the margins of our society such as those experiencing homelessness or poverty. But how often do we see our neighbor in the person who disagrees with us?

As Catholics, our strong tradition of social teaching compels us to be actively engaged in the building up of our communities. This is achieved by being involved in the political process—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves. When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities.

What is needed is good, honest, civil dialogue. This means that we must treat everyone as worthy of being at the table, worthy of our respect, and worthy of being heard. In short, it means treating everyone as our neighbor.

We undermine our commitment to human life and dignity when we fail to see the dignity of those who have a different viewpoint. We must detach from the bitterness that surrounds us and seek a better path. A commitment to civil dialogue

can help us make real and authentic human connections, which breaks down the barriers that divide us.

Engaging in civil dialogue can help our faith communities create a new space to model love for our neighbors and respect for the dignity of all.

Tips for Engaging in Civil Dialogue:

1. Listen first and seek to understand the whole picture.
2. Ask questions for clarification.
3. Use 'I' statements; pay attention to body language.
4. Listen to what feelings are present and pay attention to how you respond.
5. Summarize what you've heard and ask for feedback.



Civil dialogue can best be defined as the ability to enter meaningful conversation with people whose viewpoints may be different from our own, who have a different background or experiences, or who come to a different conclusion about the best way to promote the common good. We enter into civil dialogue because we want to build a community that is rooted in understanding one another. God's love for each person requires us to remember that someone who disagrees with us is still a beloved child of



God who deserves our love, respect, and care.

An important ingredient to civil dialogue is commitment to the truth. While respecting the dignity of all, we acknowledge that not all viewpoints are equally valid. We have the responsibility to speak truth with love. In addition, all who exercise their freedom of speech have an obligation to ensure that they come to conclusions based on data from credible and reputable sources, and that care is taken to avoid seeking the truth selectively, that is, only when it is convenient to us.

Civil dialogue is different than remaining silent in the face of disagreement. Listening to opposing views is a part of seeking clarity and can be a creative process. In civil dialogue, all are invited to bring and share their values, beliefs, and questions. We seek first to understand how our views on a topic are different and why. We ask questions to be sure we understand one another. In thinking critically about how we arrived at our own view points and listening to the experiences of others, we can sometimes arrive at new understanding and even find common ground.

Pope Francis has remarked, “Dialogue allows people to know and understand one another’s needs. Above all, it is a sign of great respect, because it puts the person into a stance of listening, and into a condition of being receptive to the speaker’s best viewpoints. Secondly, dialogue is an expression of charity because, while not ignoring differences, it can help us investigate and share the common good. Moreover, dialogue invites us to place ourselves before the other, seeing him or her as a gift of God, and as someone who calls upon us and asks to be acknowledged.”ⁱ

ⁱ Pope Francis, *Jubilee Audience at St. Peter’s Square*, October 22, 2016.

Just like any authentic human connection, the process of dialogue is complicated, often uncomfortable, and requires vulnerability and trust. We must rely on our faith in Christ who taught us that everyone is truly our neighbor. Promoting civil discourse is one way we can put this teaching into action.

Interested in learning more about civil dialogue or about how your community can engage in civil dialogue more often? Join USCCB’s *Civilize It* Campaign to help promote dignity beyond the debate. A version of this campaign was first implemented by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and is a call for all people to civilize our conversations. Visit civilizeit.org for more information, to take the pledge, or plan an opportunity for civil dialogue in your community.

If you are part of a group looking to create an opportunity for civil dialogue in your community, it may be helpful to consider these questions:

1. Is our intention to facilitate greater understanding, or merely win a debate?
2. Whose voices are we including? Whose are missing? Who else should be invited to the conversation?
3. How can we remember our shared human dignity and deescalate the situation when we feel ourselves become tense?
4. What guidelines could the group set together that will keep the conversation centered on dialogue instead of debate, and honor the dignity of all people present?





CIVILIZE IT

DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

===== 2020 =====

A divided country. Fights at the dinner table. Political vitriol. What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a climate?

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of engagement in the political process as a means of putting our faith into action. We are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves.

When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities. As Catholics, we

must model a better way. We invite you to join the *Civilize It* campaign by taking the

pledge below as a way to promote civility, love our neighbors, and build community.

Civilize It is about making room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. We are called to recognize that each one of us is a beloved child of God and to respond in love to that reality. *Civilize It* is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward.

Take the pledge below as an individual, family, or community. Anyone and everyone can commit together to honoring human dignity through civil conversation.

I pledge:

Civility

To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

Clarity

To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well [formed conscience](#), which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

Compassion

To encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

Signature

Date

