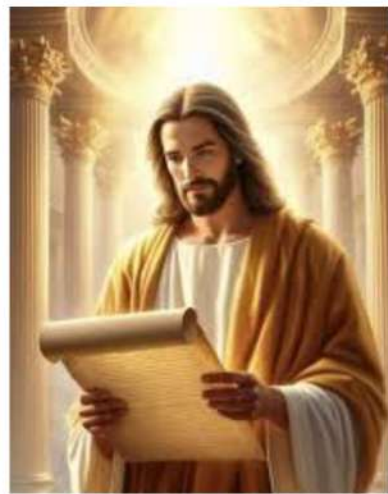




# St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**February 15, 2026**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## 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

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Do not think that I have  
come to abolish the law or  
the prophets. I have come  
not to abolish but to fulfill.  
Amen, I say to you, until  
heaven and earth pass  
away, not the smallest letter  
or the smallest part of a  
letter will pass from the law,  
until all things have taken  
place."  
Matthew 5:17–18

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, February 15th

7:30am: People of St. William's, Luca & Susan Rispoli,  
Claudina & Alessandro Pregno, Lynda Grayanese

9am: Marie Arcidiacono

10:30am: Nicole & Jeanine Tedeschi

12n: Kathleen Payami

### Monday, February 16th

8:30am: Keith Mastronardi

### Tuesday, February 17th

8:30am: Billy D'Alessio, Marget Peggy Gumbrecht,  
Jane Adamo, Steve Alexy

### Wednesday, February 18th - Ash Wednesday

7am: The Lenten Intentions of the Parish

9am: The Lenten Intentions of the Parish

7pm: The Lenten Intentions of the Parish

### Thursday, February 19th

8:30am: Helen Jane Lund

### Friday, February 20th

8:30am: Karl Fuessler

### Saturday, February 21st

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: People of St. William's, Andrew Morafates,  
Carmela Battaglia, Paul Proscia

## Pray for the Sick

Richard Fedyk - Rosemary Averill - Charlie Herbert - Frances Speidell

Thomas Stolfi - Suzanne Surrow - Jack Comiskey - Joel Brown

## Pray for the Deceased

John J. Ferner - Barbara Joy Geraghty - Maria I. Smith

### The Altar Candles

have been donated in loving memory of  
Dick Mehrman  
from the Francine Tomich & Family

### The Adoration Candles

have been donated in honor of the  
Parishioners of St. William's

## *Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes' and your 'No' mean 'No'*

As we gather this weekend for the Sixth Week of Ordinary Time, we once again find ourselves listening to Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, in the heart of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus speaks clearly and lovingly about the Law and the Prophets, reminding us that His coming does not abolish them, nor does it change or erase even the smallest letter or punctuation mark. Instead, He fulfills them. What we hear is not a rigid list of rules, but a revelation of God's deepest desire: a living relationship with His people, rooted in love, faithfulness, and trust.

Jesus takes us deeper than external observance and invites us into the interior life of His Sacred Heart. He speaks to the dignity of every human life and the sacredness of our relationships - with parents, siblings, and within the family of faith. He challenges us to honor marriage, to resist sins of lust, adultery, and divorce, and to recognize that these commandments are not heavy burdens placed on our shoulders, but protections for love. Jesus speaks of a God who longs for intimacy with us - a loving Father who wants our hearts, not just simple "rule followers" who check all the religious boxes.

The Lord also speaks powerfully about the integrity of our word. "Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no." In a world where truth can be bent or blurred, Jesus calls us to be disciples who are honest, clear, and trustworthy. Our words matter because they flow from the core of who we are - a follower of Christ. When our lives are rooted in God, our speech and actions reflect His truth, and we become credible witnesses to the Gospel.

This upcoming week we begin the holy season of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. The Church invites us into the sacred disciplines of prayer, fasting, and abstinence. On Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent, we abstain from meat as a way of uniting our sacrifices with Jesus' forty days in the desert and His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. These practices are not meant to punish us, but to draw us closer to the Lord by simplifying our lives and sharpening our focus on what truly matters. Since the Catholic Church began almost 2000 years ago, holy women and men have prepared a religious game plan to help them remove external distractions and live holier lives especially during Lent. We are encouraged to do the same in 2026.

Interestingly enough, we have just begun our 99th year of existence as a Roman Catholic parish community. I often think of the clergy, religious, and lay faithful who have gone before us and laid the foundation and enhanced our identity. Throughout our history, St. William the Abbot has been a beacon of faith and hope on the south shore of Long Island inspiring so many to embrace the Holy Disciplines and to love and serve the Lord. This year will be no different.

During this Lenten season, our parish will place an emphasis and focus on the Gospel image of the Good Shepherd - the one who leaves the "99" to search for the "one" lost sheep. Each of us is invited to prayerfully consider who that "one" might be in our own lives: a family member, a friend, a neighbor who has drifted away. Lent is a beautiful opportunity to invite them back - perhaps to Ash Wednesday, the Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday, or Easter Sunday Mass.

Some of our loved ones and friends may have experienced the Church only as a place of rules and regulations that correct and limit them. It is helpful to remember the wonderful image of the Church as a "field hospital" that Pope Francis gave to us. As wounded sinners ourselves, we have the responsibility to go out to others, and to receive and welcome people who come to our parish community who are also tired, wounded sinners. But we know the remedy to healing and freedom only comes from God. The laws and expectations of the Church are gifts that help keep us close to the Lord, guiding us home again. May this Lent be a season of return, renewal, and rediscovered joy in walking with Christ and His Church. Have a great Lent!

With prayers for you and your families,

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



### ***Lenten Book***

The Little Black Books containing prayers and reflections for Lent are available at the doors of the Church. We ask that each family take only one copy.

### ***Year-End Tax Statement***

Year-end tax statements may be obtained by request from the Rectory.  
Please call 516-785-1266 or email  
[information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org)

### ***Anointing of the Sick***

Anyone going to the hospital or who has a serious illness can receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, which will be celebrated communally immediately following the 12n Mass on Sunday, February 22, 2026.

This communal blessing takes place on the last Sunday of every month following the 12n Mass.

### ***Pray for Those in the Military***

Lt. Ian Bayer (USN) - Lt. Rebecca Bayer (USN) - Lt. Ryan Bayer (USN) - Sgt. Craig Bianco (USA) - PFC Jake Cilento (USA) - PFC Ryan Daly (USMC) - Lt. Col. Michael DiPietro (USA) - LCpl Daniel Dugan (USMC) - Capt. Dana Duggan (USMC) - Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald (USN) - Capt. Michael Fitzgerald (USA) - Capt. Christopher J. Frasse (USA) - Capt. Matthew B. Frasse (USAF) - Lt. Col. John Kallo (USA) - STSC (SS) Thomas Kerley (USN) - CW2 Brian Kirby (USA) - Lt. Commander James Knudsen (USCG) - Capt. Caitlin Lee (USA) - Lt. Col Logan Lee (USA) - Major Philip Lettieri, MD (USA) - Lt. Cpl. Kevin Marshall (USMC) - Major Eamon G. McArdle (USA) - Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers (USAF) - Pvt. Juliana Miller (USA) - Col. Sean Morrow (USA) - Lt. Michael Napolitano (USN) - Lt. Michael O'Hara (USN) - MMN2 Emily Partridge (USN) - Spc. Brian Reip (USA) - Sgt. Donald Rogers (USA) - Airman Carlos Rosado (USAF) - Lt. Col. Thomas F. Shields (USAF) - Lt. Col. Michelle Simpson (USAF) - Commander Michael S. Slatley (USN) - SR Ella Tietz (USCG) - Daniel Timpanaro (USCG) - Lt. Col. Christopher J. Ustler (USA) - Cdr. Katherine Ustler-Lodispoto (USCG) - Michael Vietri (USN) - 2nd Lt. John Whidden (USMC) - Lt. Joseph Yahner (USA) - Pvt. Philip Zanardi (USAR)

# Ash Wednesday

## February 18th

Masses: 7am, 9am, 7pm  
(with ash distribution)

Continuous Ash Distribution:  
10am-6pm



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# BEHOLD

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## The Pillars of Lent




### Prayer




Prayer is the action that helps us form a relationship with God. By taking the time to turn away from the distractions of the world, we turn to God to contemplate, to talk, and to listen to Him. During Lent, we can do this by joining a Hallow prayer challenge, reading the "Little Black Book", or devoting a few minutes before bed each night to pray as a family.

### Fasting



Fasting is when we give up things - good and bad - to help deepen our awareness of Jesus' suffering and also bring us closer to God. Traditionally, people "give up" something like sweets or rich foods, but we can also give up actions like gossiping or scrolling time on our phones. We also abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent.

### Almsgiving



Almsgiving is charitable acts to serve as a witness to God's love for us and our love for others. It can mean that you increase your donation to the parish or Catholic Ministries Appeal or other organization, but it can also mean incorporating acts of service into your life in other ways like volunteering your time or donating food or other items to those in need.



"Then Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Luke 15:3-8



# Stations of the Cross

Friday Nights at 7pm  
2/20-3/27

# Lenten Masses

With Guest Celebrants

Tuesday Nights at 7pm  
2/24-3/24

there will be a free-will offering collected

## ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

FOR PRACTICING ADULT CATHOLICS (18+) WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED, RECEIVED FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, AND HAVE HAD PREVIOUS CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION. THIS PROGRAM WILL PRESENT AN OVERVIEW OF THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH TO PREPARE YOU FOR CONFIRMATION ON SUNDAY, MAY 24TH.

CLASSES BEGIN ON MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> AND CONTINUE FOR 9 SESSIONS FOLLOWING THE 9AM MASS IN THE ABBEY  
TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT [STWILLIAM.ORG/OCIA](http://STWILLIAM.ORG/OCIA)

## SWA CYO BASKETBALL

FOR BOYS & GIRLS  
IN 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

\$40  
PER  
PLAYER



REGISTRATION  
OPENS  
2/8

LEARN BASIC  
BASKETBALL  
FUNDAMENTALS WITH  
THIS  
6-WEEK SESSION ON  
TUESDAY EVENINGS  
BEGINNING FEB 24 IN THE  
SWS GYM





The SWS Class of 2026 recently celebrated High School Spirit Week! Our students are to be congratulated for receiving \$537,000 in academic scholarships to various Catholic High Schools across Long Island, with acceptances to Kellenberg Memorial High School, St. Anthony's High School, St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, Chaminade, and Sacred Heart High School. We couldn't be more proud or happier for the Class of 2026!







20  
26

## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*"Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another."  
- Pope Leo XIV*

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

As we prepare for the season of Lent, and then journey through the holy season of Lent, let us hear the call to deepen our faith through the traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Our parish and our Diocese offer many opportunities for prayer throughout this season, and we are encouraged to practice fasting to strengthen our relationship with God.

Through our support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), we participate in almsgiving as we join with fellow Catholics across the Diocese and make a gift to serve others in our Faith community. There is no better time to reflect on God's infinite love and to open our hearts and hands to those around us who are in need. Because of you and your gifts to the CMA, we can touch the lives of so many people in our community.

Gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal assist seminarians and those in the diaconate program with their education costs. The CMA also funds various youth and young adult programs across our Diocese, including campus ministry programs at Long Island colleges. Catholic Charities of Long Island receives funding from the CMA as well so that they can help the community in need, such as seniors, veterans, and the families who are struggling.

Whatever your plans are for the upcoming Lenten season, I ask that you also consider adding a gift to the CMA as a part of your almsgiving. This important appeal helps so many people across Long Island. We cannot do this work without you!

So, I ask you to please join me and all your brothers and sisters within our diocese in making a gift to the 2026 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please do so to the best of your ability as all gifts matter, regardless of the amount.

Please also remember, **100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

Finally, if you are unable to make a gift at this time due to circumstances in your life, please reach out at any time, so that we may help you in any way that we can. You are never alone, and your church community is always here to support you.



### ***This Weekend's Music Selections***

We invite you to participate by using the song numbers below and the missals found in the pews.

Entrance Hymn: "Gather Your People" (#310)

Offertory Hymn: "Drawn to You" (#419)

Communion Hymn: "Gift of Finest Wheat" (#345)

Communion Meditation: "Goodness of God"

Recessional Hymn: "All the Ends of the Earth" (#580)

Our Children's and Adult Choirs are back in session - visit [stwilliam.org/music-ministry](http://stwilliam.org/music-ministry) for more information on joining!

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:1-2*

## ***Parish Social Ministry***

### ***Pantry Needs***

Mayonnaise - Tomato Puree - Canned Beef Stew - Raisins - Tissues - Conditioner

### ***Spring 2026 Bereavement Registration***

If you or someone you know has experienced the loss of a loved one and would be interested in attending a small group session for support, please call the Social Ministry office. Sessions will begin in March and will be held at 11am on Wednesdays for seven weeks. Space is limited, register early! For more information about these sessions call us at 516-679-8532.

### ***Tuesday, February 17 "Soup and a Seminar"***

The Nassau County Office for the Aging will host 'Soup and a Seminar' at the Bethpage Senior Community Center on Tuesday February 17 from 2pm to 4pm. Enjoy a cup of soup and a presentation on Winter Wellness presented by The Bristal Assisted Living. This session will cover how to stay safe, strong and connected this winter. They will explore why cold weather can increase health risks and how to protect your body and improve your mood. Learn how to stay active indoors, support immunity and create a winter safety plan for storms and emergencies. To reserve a space, call 516-227-8900.

### ***Self Defense Workshop Monday, February 23***

There will be a Self Defense Workshop presented by Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips on Monday, February 23 at 11am at the West Hempstead Senior Center at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Comptroller Phillips is a sixth-degree black belt who has trained in Korean Martial Arts for 29 years. Participants will learn skills and techniques that can enhance personal safety, develop greater self-awareness and boost confidence. Reservations are required, call 516-481-3322 to reserve your spot! Sneakers and yoga/gym apparel are recommended, and modifications are available for those that need to remain seated. Participants are welcome to stay for lunch.

### ***Senior Legal Services Presentation February 27***

Legal Services of Long Island (LSLI) will be at Bethpage Senior Community Center at 1:30pm on Friday February 27. They will be presenting on topics such as Health Care Proxies, Powers of Attorney, Supplemental Needs and Pooled Trusts. LSLI is the region's largest non-profit provider of free civil legal assistance. They support Long Island's most vulnerable neighbors in their local justice systems, and advocate for individuals and families when they need it most. Reservations for this session are required, call early to reserve your spot at 516-227-8900.





stwilliam.org

f @stwilliamabbot

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Or visit  
stwilliam.org/ways-to-give



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

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

priests@stwilliam.org

#### **Deacons**

Dcn. John Lynch      Dcn. Michael Metzdorff  
Dcn. Anthony Cedrone (Retired)  
information@stwilliam.org

#### **Rectory Staff**

Judy Goldman  
*Business Manager*  
jgoldman@stwilliam.org

Sue McCormick  
*Office Manager*  
information@stwilliam.org

Kate Walsh  
*Development & Operations*  
kwalsh@stwilliam.org

#### **Office of Childhood Faith Formation**

Laura Walsh  
*Director*  
faithformation@stwilliam.org | 516-783-2528  
stwilliam.org/faith-formation

#### **Parish Social Ministry**

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

#### **Music Ministry**

Jennifer Hegmann-Palminteri  
*Director*  
information@stwilliam.org

#### **Rectory Information**

2000 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
516-785-1266

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

*If there is an emergency where someone is critically ill or injured  
and needs a priest outside of office hours, please call 516-312-7361*



#### **St. William the Abbot School**

Elizabeth Bricker      Kasey Grasso  
*Principal      Assistant Principal*

516-785-6784

stwilliamtheabbot.net

*A Legacy of Excellence for Over 70 Years - Nursery through 8th Grade*

#### **Our Seminarian**

Dcn. Herley Mendez  
*SWA Parishioner*

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

#### **Pastoral Council**

Chris Blankley - Fred Duemig  
Lara Klein - Kelly Koster - Peter Tietz

#### **Finance Council**

Rita Defendini - Debra Eannel - Robert Gerhard - John Kaley\*  
Tom Kiley - Ed Lettieri\* - Michael Turturro  
\*Parish Trustee

#### **Resources**

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)  
ocia@stwilliam.org | stwilliam.org/ocia

Baptisms & Weddings at St. William the Abbot  
stwilliam.org/sacraments

Register as a St. William the Abbot Parishioner  
stwilliam.org/i-am-new

Catholic High Schools of Long Island  
chsee.org

Diocese of Rockville Centre  
drvc.org

Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand  
formed.org

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation: Financial Aid for Catholic Schools  
tomorrowshopefoundation.org

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

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

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

*Bishop Emeritus*  
Most Reverend William Murphy

drvc.org