



# St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



## February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent

### 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

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Mark 1:12-13

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024

Christine Paulson  
Kevin Mullen  
Delanie Fekert  
Catherine Maher

#### Monday, Feb. 19, 2024

Peter Gubing

#### Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024

Karl H. Fuessler

#### Wed., Feb. 21, 2024

Robert Russo

#### Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024

Collective Intentions  
Christina Greenseich  
Carmela Graziano  
Bill Gillen  
Conor Cronin  
Michael Guglielmo

#### Friday, Feb. 23, 2024

Patrick Butler

#### Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024

Purgatorial Society  
Frances Prentice

### Pray for the Sick

Richard Fedyk  
Jill Rogers  
Sal Lupo  
Keith Gorton

Penny Duggan  
Jessica Hackett  
Jacqueline Denhard

### Pray for the Deceased

George J. McLaughlin

### Wine and Hosts

The Wine and Hosts used at Mass this week have been donated in loving memory of  
Daniel Foy  
from the Dillworth Family

### Pillar of Formation

This Lenten Season, dig deeper into your prayer life. Attend Stations of the Cross, go to confession, and pick up a new prayer habit. Also, during this Lenten season, you can read a Catholic spiritual book.

### Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle used at Mass this week has been donated in loving memory of  
Daniel Foy  
from the Dillworth Family

# The Lenten Desert

The Gospel this weekend is short and to the point, Jesus is moved by the Holy Spirit into the desert for 40 days and is tempted by the devil. What????? Each time I read that I cannot help but ask why would the Heavenly Father allow that to happen? The desert is an intense and unforgiving environment. The scorching temperatures, the wild beasts, the lack of protection from the elements – a destination that many people will NOT be going to this winter break. So, what was the reason that Jesus went there? It was a time of preparation. We know that God has been given many names, and titles; one very familiar name is the Good Shepherd. God is a shepherd that knows us and leads us to where we need to be spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

When I think about the significance of 40 days, we know that 40 days is a time when most of us would be able to solidify an action or routine, or to break a habit that might be detrimental. Think for a moment about the military. The initial experience is Boot Camp (usually 6-10 weeks), which prepares a soldier for battle, but also breaks bad habits. You can think about people who try to detox or break a bad habit, 40 days is a benchmark on the way to recovery. The Catholic Church in her wisdom offers us this time of Lent to do the same, to look at Jesus' example of entering into the desert to assist us, and ultimately to lead us into a greater focus and reliance on him.

Okay, so it is Lent 2024 - what does your Desert experience look like? Is it the adding of spiritual exercises, or the reading of the scriptures, or studying the life of a saint? Perhaps it is attending an additional Mass during the week, or a traditional devotion like Adoration, the Rosary, or the Friday night communal Stations of the Cross. Maybe the Lord is calling you to strip away some of the carnal extras by fasting from certain foods, an addictive habit, or our unbelievable reliance on technology and screens. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to where you may most need to change and grow in this time of your life.

Stay encouraged by the scriptures this week; they reveal that hopeful image of God sending His angels to assist Jesus during that difficult time. Well, who will be the angel He sends to help us this Lent? Be watchful, and attentive during your time in the Lenten Desert – we do not walk alone. I was recently reminded of my pilgrimage to the Holy Land a few years back, and in particular the part where we drove to the Dead Sea. Our tour group was able to witness and experience the Israeli desert, and it was not the most hospitable. I am pretty sure that the air-conditioned bus, the fully stocked cooler with water, soft drinks, and snacks were not what Jesus experienced during His time. The Good Shepherd is beckoning us back to Him and the route to holiness is through self-control and sacrifice.

What can we learn from the Spiritual Exercises from the past to assist us in 2024? Jesus and the saints model a full reliance on the Father, a laser focus on God and His providence. If the Spirit is going to lead us to the desert – just like for Jesus, He will surely lead us through it. The challenge if you are like me, is it does not take long before I find myself distracted and wandering. Sometimes, I wander because of circumstances that are tempting me to leave God's presence. Other times it is my brokenness and sinfulness. The danger of wandering is that sometimes we wander too far. We become thirsty and drink from streams that never fulfill or satisfy us.

That is the beauty of Lent – we can reset and refocus on God. I have to laugh that in our modern culture people can be so quick to embrace intermittent fasting. This “new trend” is all over the medical, fitness, and sports journals about the health effects from fasting. And yet people struggle with the church's expectations that lead us not to fit into a wedding dress, a summer bathing suit, or a smaller belt size, but to holiness and the pathway to heaven. To the best of our ability, let us be faithful to the days of fasting and abstinence presented to us by the church instead of focusing on the loopholes and dispensations when things get challenging. It will make for a more fruitful spiritual experience, and ultimately – we will be more whole, and holy! Have a Blessed Lent!

Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

## ***Baptisms***

Please welcome the following child who was baptized this past weekend:

Julia LaSala

## ***Banns of Marriage***

### **Banns I**

Erin Vecchi, St. William the Abbot  
& John Cronin, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst

Juliette Fernan, St. William the Abbot  
& Michael Connallon, Holy Child Jesus, Richmond Hill, NY

## ***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 12:00 N Mass on Sunday, February 25, 2024.



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

### **US Air Force -**

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

### **US Army -**

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

### **USMC -**

First Lt. Dana Duggan  
L.Cpl. John Mosier

### **US Navy -**

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

### **US Coast Guard -**

LT Commander James Knudsen  
Daniel Timpanaro  
Commander Katherine Ustler-Lodispoto

### **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

## ***CYO Basketball - 3rd Grade Clinic***

St. William's CYO will be holding a Basketball Clinic for girls and boys in the 3rd Grade. The clinic will take place in the St William's Gym for six sessions in February and March. Participants will receive instructions on the basic skills used in basketball. The registration fee for this clinic is \$40.

Registration for the 3rd Grade Basketball Clinic will take place from Sunday, February 11 through Sunday, February 18. Participants should register online at:

[stwilliamcyo.sportngin.com](http://stwilliamcyo.sportngin.com).

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

Please note that year-end statements for your taxes will not be automatically mailed out. They may be obtained by request from the Rectory. Please call 516-785-1266 or email [information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org).

## ***Help Keep the Church Clean***

We ask those visiting the Church not to leave flowers, religious cards, holiday cards, bibles or religious artifacts in the Church, near the religious statues or on the Sanctuary. It is acceptable to discard these items, or bury them. Thank you.



— LENT AT ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT —

*Reflect & Renew*



# Stations of the Cross

EVERY FRIDAY  
FEB 16 - MAR 22 AT 7PM



# Lent Mass

WITH FR. ALEXANDER TURPIN

PAROCHIAL VICAR - MARIA REGINA CHURCH (SEAFORD)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH - 7PM

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY AT 7PM FOR MASS WITH GUEST CELEBRANTS

*"Always be ready to give an explanation for a reason for your hope"*

1 PETER 3:15

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO COME HOME FOR LENT TO BE ANNOUNCED. VISIT [STWILLIAM.ORG/LENTEASTER24](http://STWILLIAM.ORG/LENTEASTER24)



LENT AT ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT

*Reflect & Renew*

# Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross for Families

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST  
5:45PM IN THE ABBEY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY 2/28  
[stwilliam.org/lenteaster24](http://stwilliam.org/lenteaster24)



## Men's Prayer Group

EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH 3/23  
6:30AM - THE ABBEY

*"Always be ready to give an explanation for a reason for your hope"*

1 PETER 3:15

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO COME HOME FOR LENT TO BE ANNOUNCED. VISIT [STWILLIAM.ORG/LENTEASTER24](http://STWILLIAM.ORG/LENTEASTER24)



## ***Faith Formation***

Mr. Puvogel's 3rd Grade Class incorporated the Super Bowl into their lessons last week. After the huddle, students earned points for correct answers, and even incurred some penalties and flags on their plays.



## ***Thank You, Kellenberg!***

Our Food Pantry benefitted from a canned soup drive at Kellenberg. Students dropped the donations off on Monday before they head to school to teach some of our Faith Formation classes.



## ***Scouting Sunday***

Last week, our Scouting families came together to attend Mass and celebrate all they've accomplished this year as they move ahead to the next level of Scouting.

Thank you to all our leaders for their commitment and congratulations to SWS 2nd Graders Braden, Cooper, Jack, Easton, Giorgio, and Lucas on earning their Light of Day Award!



# **BACK TO BASICS**

Is there something you'd like to see explained in our Back to Basics series?

Email us at [priests@stwilliam.org](mailto:priests@stwilliam.org)





# St. William the Abbot School

Class K-1 has enjoyed making some winter snacks and doing experiments while learning about penguins and polar bears. The blubber glove experiment was their favorite!



Grades 3 and 4 joined Fr. Joe to learn more about how and why last year's Palms are burned to make ashes for Ash Wednesday and grades N-8 marked the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass and Prayer Services.





## ***Parish Social Ministry***

### ***Pantry Needs***

Brown Rice  
Canned Chicken  
Sugar  
Pancake Mix  
Toothpaste

### ***Spring 2024 Bereavement Registration***

Registration for our Spring Bereavement Group is now open! This is a 7-week program conducted on Wednesdays in the Abbey. If you or someone you know would be interested in attending, please call the office to register. Sessions will begin March 20 and space is limited! For more information about these sessions call us at 516-679-8532.

### ***St. William's School Soup Drive***

The students of St. William the Abbot School did a canned soup collection in honor of the "Soup-er" Bowl. Their hard work resulted in hundreds of cans of soup being donated to our Food Pantry. Soup is a great winter meal as it's easy, nutritious, and warm. Thanks to their collection, we are stocked for the winter! We are so grateful to the students of St. William's and their families for their generous donations.

### ***Thank You Sharks CYO Swim Team***

In honor of Valentine's Day, the St. Williams CYO swim team (the "Sharks") created over 80 homemade bookmarks for our homebound parishioners. Each bookmark was colored, decorated, and inscribed with a message for the holiday. What a thoughtful and lovely gift! Thank you, Sharks swimmers and families, for your ongoing generosity to our Parish Outreach programs, we appreciate it!



### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday February 20 at 10am in the Abbey. This ministry knits and crochets lap robes, blankets, hats, scarves, and other items for the sick and needy of our community. Yarn is provided, and new members at any skill level are always welcome!

### ***Income Tax Assistance Available***

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is now accepting applications for both in-person and virtual services. This program sponsored by Bethpage Federal Credit Union provides free basic tax return preparation for low-to-moderate income families and individuals. In-person and virtual services are available through appointments only. If interested, complete the Bethpage VITA appointment application at <https://www.bethpagefcu.com/community/vita/>. For questions, contact Community Development at [community@bethpagefcu.com](mailto:community@bethpagefcu.com) or (516) 349-4288.

### ***Donating Used Items***

We have updated the Parish Social Ministry section of the St. William the Abbot Parish website. We list multiple donation resources locally for your furniture, clothing, housewares and more! Check us out at [www.stwilliam.org/social-ministry](http://www.stwilliam.org/social-ministry) for more information!



## Saint David

Saint David was a bishop.

A bishop's hat is called a **miter** and the hook is a **crozier**.

A dove sat on Saint David's shoulder to show that the Holy Spirit was with him. A hill grew under his feet so people could see him.



Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.  
The dragon is a symbol of Wales.

Year B: First Sunday of Lent



# Catholic Kids

February 18, 2024  
Lent  
Color: Purple



PWLYOURPWAYS PWOLORDP

BPYOURPCOVENANT

Your ways, O  
Lord, are love  
and truth to  
those who keep  
your covenant.

PAREOLOVEPANDPTU



Do you remember that the priest wore purple during Advent? That was when we were waiting for Jesus to be born at Christmas. The priest is wearing purple again while we wait for Jesus to rise at Easter.

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## Gospel

Jesus lived in the desert for 40 days! The devil tried to tempt Him to turn the rocks into bread when He was hungry. Jesus got help from the angels and knew that He could wait. He didn't listen to the devil.

Year B: First Sunday of Lent

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stwilliam.org/ways-to-give



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

Rev. Michael Edathil  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. John Crozier  
*In Residence*

priests@stwilliam.org

**Deacons**

Dcn. Anthony Cedrone

Dcn. John Lynch

Dcn. Michael Metzдорff

information@stwilliam.org

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jgoldman@stwilliam.org

Sue McCormick  
*Office Manager*  
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Kate Walsh  
*Development & Operations*  
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**Office of Faith Formation**

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*Director*

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**Parish Social Ministry**

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stwilliam.org/social-ministry

**Music Ministry**

Jennifer Lynde  
*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: 9am - 12n

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

**St. William the Abbot School**



Elizabeth Bricker  
*Principal*

Ryan Fedak  
*Assistant Principal*

516-785-6784

stwilliamtheabbot.net

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

**Our Seminarians**

Dcn. Joseph Lettieri  
*SWA Parishioner*

Herley Mendez  
*SWA Parishioner*

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

**Pastoral Council**

Chris Blankley - Fred Duemig - Barbara Geraghty  
Lara Klein - Kelly Koster - Peter Tietz - Thomas Ward

**Finance Council**

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

\*Parish Trustees

**Resources**

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)  
rcia@stwilliam.org | stwilliam.org/rcia

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**

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

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

Most Reverend William Murphy  
*Bishop Emeritus*

drvc.org