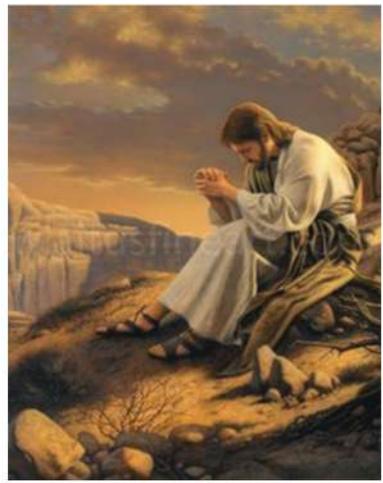




# St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



## February 22, 2026 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 that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."  
Matthew 4:1-3

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, February 22nd

7:30am: John Laddomada

9am: Joseph & Katherine DelVecchio

10:30am: Vallone & Monticciolo Families

12n: Richard McArdle, Lucy Roberti,

The Monaco Family (liv), Cara Lynn McGuinness

#### Monday, February 23rd

8:30am: Patrick Butler

#### Tuesday, February 24th

8:30am: Irene Yee, Gerard Langhauser,

Peter Tarsnane, Peter Canale

#### Wednesday, February 25th

8:30am: John Laddomada

#### Thursday, February 26th

8:30am: Louis Jannotte, Sr., Rosemarie Ripi,

Marie Skennion, Steve Alexy

#### Friday, February 27th

8:30am: Robert Oxiox

#### Saturday, February 28th

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: Salvatore Rivelli

### Pray for the Sick

Richard Fedyk - Rosemary Averill - Charlie Herbert - Frances Speidell

Thomas Stolfi - Suzanne Surrow - Joel Brown - Mary Lynn Provenzano

### Pray for the Deceased

Rosanne Frances Alessi - Kevin Cullen - Janet S. Maino

John (Jack) Comiskey - Rita Helen Corcoran

#### The Wine and Hosts

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

#### The Sanctuary Candle

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

## *The Temptation of Jesus in the Desert – “If” You are the Son of God*

As we begin our Lenten journey, the Gospel story of the temptation in the desert (Matt 4:1-11) speaks very directly to our hearts and daily lives. We hear how Our Lord, after forty days of fasting, faces temptation when He is physically weak and hungry. That moment resonates with us because we know what it is like to feel worn down, stretched thin, and vulnerable. When our defenses are low, it is often then that we reach quickly for what is easy and comforting rather than what is truly good and life-giving.

We understand this in simple ways. When we are hungry, we can grasp in a harmful way – like for snacks with empty calories instead of nourishment; quick comforts instead of healthy habits; convenience instead of care. It is similar in our spiritual life. We sometimes reach for attitudes, choices, and behaviors that feel good in the moment, but slowly wear us down. Temptation often comes disguised as relief. The evil one presses in on human weakness, just as he did with Jesus in the desert, trying to convince us that immediate satisfaction is better than perseverance and faithful endurance.

The devil's second temptation was to put God the Father's love to the test. We too may find ourselves praying, “God, if you loved me, you would give me this” or “You would fix that.” We ask not from a place of trust, but from demand. Lest we forget that not everything we want is God's will, and not every delay or postponement from God is a denial. The Lord's love is steady and true, but it is not always expressed in the ways (or timing) that we expect. Jesus refuses to test the Father; instead, He entrusts Himself completely to Him. That trust becomes a model for us when we are confused, disappointed, or waiting.

The third temptation is to place other things before God - success, wealth, influence, pleasure, recognition, or the stroking of our pride. These promises are as old as humanity, and they still whisper to us today. In the Gospel, the devil offers power and glory, but Jesus rejects them, choosing obedience and humility instead. He shows us that worship belongs to God – and God alone, and that a rightly ordered heart brings a freedom no worldly reward can match.

Our forty days of Lent mirror Jesus' own journey into the desert because, in many ways, life itself can feel like desert terrain - dry stretches, wild uncertainty, hidden dangers, and long roads. But the desert is not empty of God; it is often where He is most deeply encountered. Our Lord goes into the desert because that is where we are - and He meets us right there, He strengthens us there, and He fights for us there. What once was barren and empty, He can revive and transform. In this weekend's first reading from Genesis, we once again hear about 'The Fall' of humanity at the tree in the Garden of Eden - which is answered by the victory at the Tree of the Cross. Jesus, the New Adam restoring what was lost by our ancient parents. The Lord desires to restore also what is broken in our human nature, today – in Lent 2026.

During these forty days, let us pray for one another and watch for the oasis moments God gives us: Mass, quiet prayer, the Stations of the Cross, Confession, acts of service, and generosity of heart. For 99 years St. William's has been that haven of hope and mercy and we know that God's grace is never far away. Lent 2026 is an opportunity for us to be gentle - but also honest with ourselves and the areas of our spiritual journey that God wants to make new. Remember, the most important moments of growth do not come in times of comfort; they come when we are stretched beyond our security zone. As we go into the desert, we know that we do not walk alone - the Lord walks with us, and so does our parish family. Let us be intentional of who the one lost lamb God may be putting on our heart to invite back into relationship with Him and the Church. It is a miracle waiting to happen.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones throughout this holy season.



## ***Baptism***

Let us welcome the following children who were baptized this past weekend:

Anthony Gianono

Lily Occhipinti

## ***Banns of Marriage***

### **Banns I**

Skylar Fasano, St. William the Abbot &

Anthony Manta, Jr., Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream

## ***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)

## ***Pillar of Prayer***

During Lent, we are called to practice prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our Parish and the Diocese have many opportunities for you to grow in faith this season.

## ***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)

## ***Purgatorial Society***

Joseph DeFazio, Donald Heffernan, Thomas C. Cox, Carolyn Tindell, Michelle Rossetti, Jennifer Cappellano, Matthew Brolly.

Rosario Agnello, Matthew Brolly, John Calandra, Pasquale Cocuzzo, Richard Grein, Lorraine Macomb, Maiorano Family, Patricia Mascuzzio, Josephine Masone, Douglas Meinhofer, Lucy Roberti, Vincent Salerno, Maria Santos, Fred T. Schmidt, Ben Ward, Kathleen M. Egan Wright, Patricia Masterson, Vito Marcone, Catherine Barry, Thomas Broderick, Ned McCormack

Vincent Franco, John Kilgus, Joseph Longhway, George Jennerich, Micheline Giacalone

Giuseppa Carollo, Louise LaBella, Thomas Pignetti, Vincent Franco, Robert Egan, Paul Tuccillo, Paul Weston, Veronica M. Fields, Nancy Zimmerman

Victor Letellier, Jr., Elvira Moore

Susanne Boden, Frances Champion, Vito Cricentio, Gabrielle D'Orsi, Mary Beth Gang, Robert Rissmeyer, Roberta Rissmeyer, Ralph Joseph Ciccarelli, Sean Hartman, Eda-Kay Lipka, Vincenzo Valerio

Robert W. Long, Salvatore Suppa, Gladys Rivera, Benny Golino, William Lewald, John M. Stolfi, Diane Cesarz, Dolores Santos Rasalan, Kelley Chaffee

Rose Kees, Sr. Veronica Sloane, Cara Lynn McGuinness, Kurt DeMartino

Michael A. Diloreto, Benito Golino, James R. Hall, Maryellen Hillman, Alfred Lewan, Robert Long, Michael Murray, Rose Marie Ripi, Edward Schifflina, George S. Smith, Daisy Montone, Robert West, Gloria Frascone, Frances Josephine Egan

Melissa Doreson, Angela Capo, Virginia M. McKinnon, Peter Joseph Scarlato, Sam Moi Lam, Catherine Migliorato

Peter Tarsnane, Michael Maiello, Kim Capone, Santino Delfino, Angelina Valente, Jan Adamo, Irma Yolanda Alvarado, Rosemarie Arnold, John Barrett, Bea Ciaravolo, Catherine Cincotta, Peter DeLaurentis, Alphonse DiPalo, John J. Ferner, Carole Gerrity, Paul A. Hewitt, Joanne Hilly, Thomas Nash, Grace Dalila Ouellette, Dara Plotts, Stella Randazzo, Maria Smith, Robert West, Christine "Carmel" Whiston

---

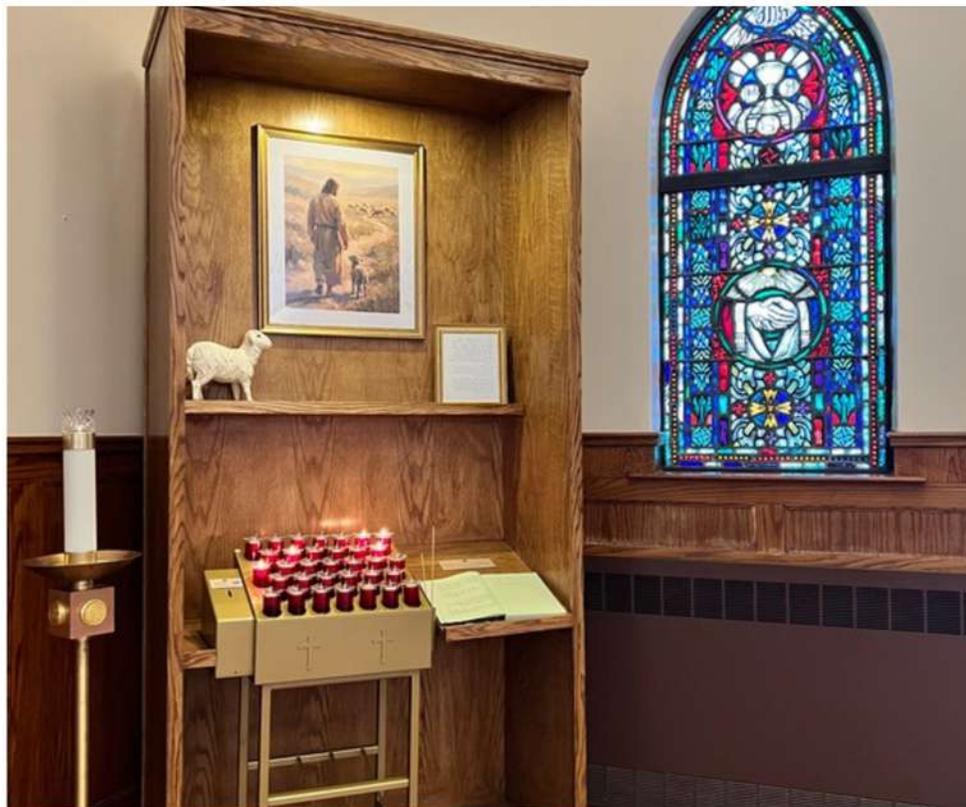
# BEHOLD

---

## Lent 2026 The Lost Sheep Project



As we enter into our 99<sup>th</sup> year as a parish, we also embark on a new mission as a faith community. Just like Jesus left the 99 to go in search of 1 lost sheep, we too are called to "go after" those who may have stepped away from the Church for any reason. Throughout this year, we are tasked with praying for those "lost sheep" and inviting them to back to our flock here at St. William the Abbot. As a reminder of this mission, a new shrine has been placed in the front vestibule - we invite you to visit and pray often, and have included a book for you to write the name or initials of the person you are praying for. We also have small sheep for you to take home so that it may serve as a reminder to you to remember the "lost sheep" in your life.



Thank you to Anthony Viggiano for helping us build and install the shrine this week!

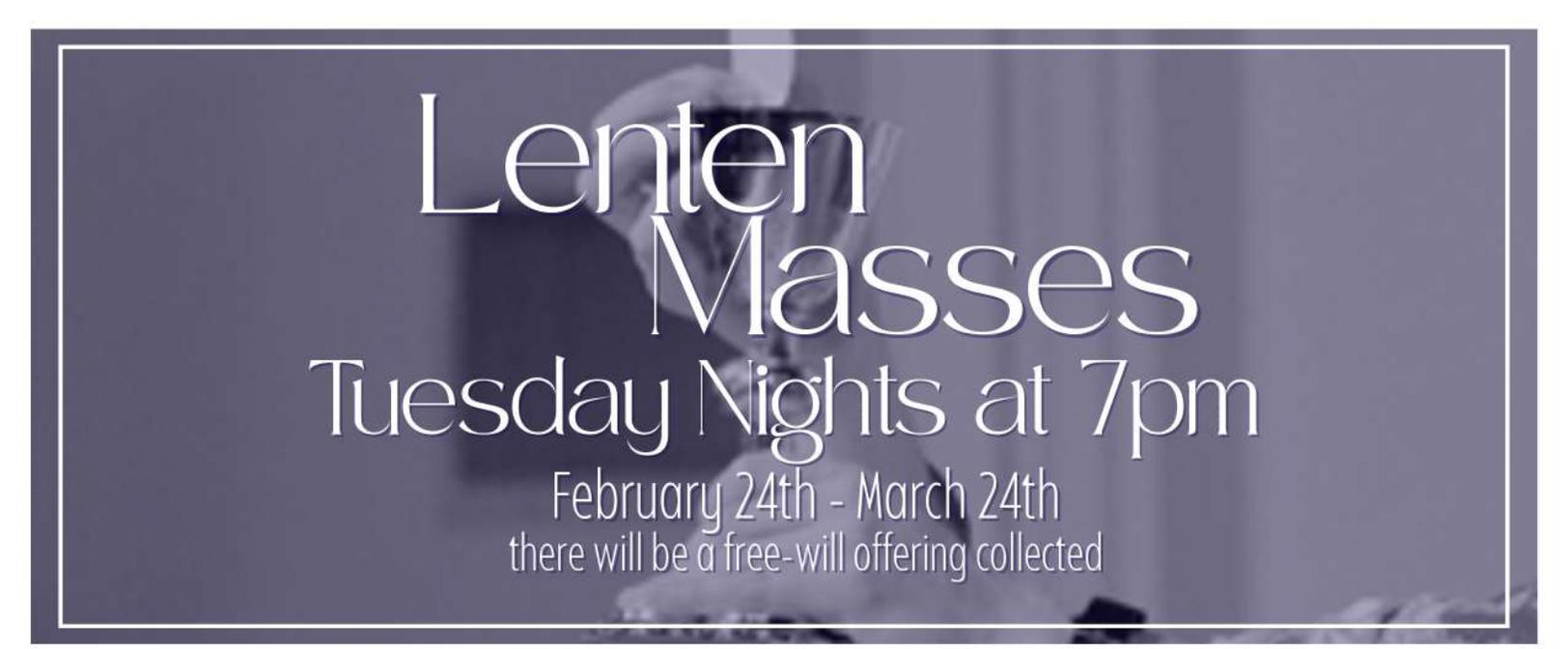
*"Then Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and 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

---

LIVE MERCY

---



# Lenten Masses

## Tuesday Nights at 7pm

February 24th - March 24th  
there will be a free-will offering collected



# Stations of the Cross

## Friday Nights at 7pm

## **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)



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

### Lent 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this Lenten season 2026, we offer our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for the Light of Christ's peace and justice to heal the many troubled parts of our nation and world.

Amid so many global and national crises, it is essential that we be guided and inspired by the Word of God. This Lent, let us rededicate ourselves to being deeply biblical Catholics on fire with the Word of God.<sup>1</sup>

In Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (2:8-10), the Apostle writes: "The Word of God is not bound," or as another translation renders it, "The Word of God cannot be chained."

The Church of Santa Maria in Via Lata in Rome, near to both the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, is traditionally taken as the site of Saint Paul's imprisonment in the Eternal City. Beneath this holy church stands an ancient, freestanding granite column that I visited and prayed at on May 17, 2024.

Etched into that ancient column is the Latin phrase for "The Word of God is not bound." The column also has rust marks indicating that a chain – possibly the one discovered archaeologically in an adjacent well – was wrapped around it.

How powerful it was to place my hands on that granite column and to touch with my fingers the words of Saint Paul! In my ecclesial mission as the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, that memorable day I asked Saint Paul for his intercession that each one of us in the Diocese of Rockville Centre could be as bold and as audacious in proclaiming that the Word of God cannot be chained!

The Word of God cannot be chained in our own lives and in the lives of our families!

The Word of God bursts through our sin, paralyses, and resistances to change, and ignites our own Road to Damascus conversions!

The Word of God breaks down the self-imposed prison doors of addiction, ego, pride, selfishness, and narcissism, and refocuses our lives on Christ and his call to rejoice!

The Word of God cannot be chained by sin, war, terrorism, racism, injustice, poverty,<sup>2</sup> or disrespect for the sanctity and dignity of human life!

---

<sup>1</sup> See Bishop Barres' Pastoral Letter *God's Word is Living and Effective* available at [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).

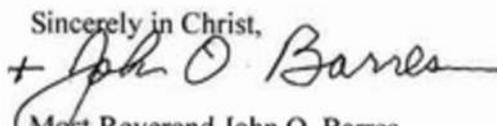
<sup>2</sup> See Pope Leo XIV's 2025 Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexit Te (On Love of the Poor)* available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

The Word of God cannot be chained by unethical deployments of Artificial Intelligence!<sup>3</sup>

The Word of God cannot be chained in the global mission of the Catholic Church, regardless of the 21st century persecutions and martyrdoms she experiences!<sup>4</sup>

As the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, and in communion and mission with our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, I thank each of you for the way you “cast fire on the earth” (Luke 12:49) through your daily reading, meditating, praying, contemplating, and living the inspired Sacred Scriptures.

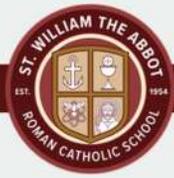
Be assured of my prayers for a blessed Lent.

Sincerely in Christ,  
  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

<sup>3</sup> See *Antiqua et Nova*, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education’s January 14, 2025, *Note on the Human In vail vat*  
<sup>4</sup> See *The Glob ion in nty-First Century*, (New York: Sophia Institute Press, 2025).

### ***Ash Wednesday at St. William’s***





SWS 1<sup>st</sup> Graders presented Mass for the school community right before the start of Winter Recess.



### ***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: "Led By the Spirit" (#130)

Offertory Hymn: "Be Not Afraid" (#439)

Communion Hymn: "Hosea" (#664)

Communion Meditation: "Lead Me to the Desert"

Recessional Hymn: "There is a Wideness in God's Mercy" (#407)

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***

Applesauce - Cookies - Salad Dressing - Canned Fruit - Napkins

#### ***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.

#### ***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.

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

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday March 3 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!



#### ***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

@stwilliamabbot

Scan here to make a one-time donation  
by Credit Card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or CashApp

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