



St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



February 8, 2026
Fifth 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

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14,16

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 8th

7:30am: Ursuline Sisters Prayer Card Enrollments

9am: Carmela Battaglia

10:30am: Robert Rao

12n: People of St. William's

Wednesday, February 11th

8:30am: Joanne & Diego Spadafora (liv), Mary Krant,

Louise Allen, Angela Panasci

Thursday, February 12th

8:30am: Kenneth Hettler

Friday, February 13th

8:30am: Joyce LoFrisco, Cameron Riley,

Donald Koonjay, Carol Bogdanowicz

Saturday, February 14th

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: Katherine Sipperly

Pray for the Sick

Paul Cameron - Richard Fedyk - Rosemary Averill - Barbara Geraghty - Charlie Herbert
Frances Speidell - Thomas Stolfi - Suzanne Surrow - Jack Comiskey - Joel Brown

Pray for the Deceased

Dorothy C. Maggiore - Catherine A. Cincotta - Mark Scofield

The Sanctuary Candle

has been donated in loving memory of
Marie Rose
from the Eslinger Family

The Wine and Hosts

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

"YOU are the LIGHT of the WORLD"

Fortunately, this week I am not making a report on Cajun delicacies or flight disruptions from Delta Airlines like last week - it is great to be back in Seaford! Now, we just need to get the temperatures above Negative Kelvin!! The beauty of the cold weather has allowed me the opportunity to stay in, wrap up in a blanket, and read a little bit more. On retreat, my spiritual director recommended a few books that have been helpful for my heart – spiritually - and for my head – theologically. One book in particular is a deep dive into Matthew 5 and the Sermon on the Mount, which we will be reading for the Sunday Gospel over the next few weeks.

As we gather this Sunday – yes, I know it is Super Bowl Sunday, but is also the Fifth Week of Ordinary Time in the Church calendar. The Gospel continues to unfold the beauty and challenge of Jesus' longest Homily. Last week, He began with the Beatitudes, offering a vision of life rooted not in power, prestige, or politics, but in humility, mercy, and trust in God. He did not align Himself with the oppressive Roman Empire, nor with the competing religious and political factions of His own people. Instead, Jesus invited His listeners - then and now - to make decisions from faith, to see the world through God's eyes. Ordinary Time, in many ways, brings us back to the basics of our faith: listening again to Jesus and allowing His words to shape how we live.

This week, that invitation deepens as Jesus calls us to be "the light of the world." Light is not meant to be hidden or kept low; it is meant to be placed high so that others may see and find their way. In a world clouded by tension and unrest - in places like Iran and Venezuela, and closer to home with unrest in Minnesota, California, and Washington D.C. – the darkness and confusion can feel overwhelming. Jesus does not ask us to solve everything, but He does ask us to return to what is essential: to put God first in our lives, to love Him with our whole hearts, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is where light begins - quietly, faithfully, and close to home.

Like many of you, I am feeling the weariness of the lingering cold, ice, and snow. We are all praying for a new springtime - certainly for warmer days, but also for a fresh start (if only the Groundhog agreed!). Spring reminds us that new life comes slowly: buds appear before blossoms, and light gradually grows stronger each day. God works in much the same way in our hearts and in our world, often patiently and quietly, inviting us to trust that renewal is already underway, even when we cannot yet see it fully.

As we look ahead, we will experience the President's Day winter break which can be a welcome oasis of downtime for the family, but we are also only about two weeks from the start of Lent. Where is the Lord working in your life? Where may He be calling you to be light and salt to others? Have you had your light dimmed by exhaustion from work or school? Have you been anxious or worried due to the news cycle and social media posts? I have to ask myself, am I holding up the light of videos from my smartphone screen to be the bearer of light into my soul, or am I holding up the Light of Christ and His Gospel to lead the way?

Let us pray for the grace to renew our commitment to be both the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth. May our kindness help to thaw hearts frozen by neglect, anger, or lack of forgiveness. May our faith invite others to hope again. And may our lives, lived simply and faithfully, point always to Jesus - trusting that, little by little, His light shining through us can help change our world.

Have a great week!



Baptisms

Let us welcome the following children who were baptized last weekend:

Kelly Fox
Lillie Leonardi

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

Second Collection

Next weekend, February 14/15, there will be a second collection to offset the heating costs which we have incurred and will continue to incur this winter.



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)

PALM Collection

Did you know we burn the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday?

We ask that you bring your palm from last year (or older!) and leave them in the baskets at the church entrances this weekend and next weekend so we can prepare for the start of Lent!

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH

*Mass Times
(with Ash Distribution):
7am, 9am, 7pm*

*Continuous
Ash Distribution:
10am-6pm*

BEHOLD

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' longest homily and each time we read Matthew 5-7, it becomes an opportunity to dive into this Holy Wisdom, which is still relevant today.

In the next few weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday, we will continue to examine Jesus' words and teachings.



The Values of God's Kingdom - The Beatitudes:

God's blessing is revealed in humility, mercy, purity of heart, and a hunger for righteousness - true greatness flows from inner transformation (Matt 5:3-12)

Righteousness of the Heart - Law, Marriage and Anger:

Jesus reminds us that it is about 'relationship' not just 'rules' - calling for inward integrity, showing that anger, lust, and unfaithfulness distort true Christian love, and that obedience begins in the heart.

(Matt 5:21-30; 5:31-32)

Life with The Father - The Lord's Prayer:

Jesus teaches believers to trust God as Father, seek His will, depend on Him daily, extend forgiveness, and rely on His guidance in times of trial. (Matt 6: 9-13)



A Visible Witness - Salt and Light:

Jesus calls His disciples to live visibly faithful lives that preserve what is good and shine with goodness so others may glorify God. (Matt 5:13-16)

Radical Love - Loving Enemies:

Jesus commands His followers to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them, modeling the Heavenly Father's perfect and merciful love.

(Matt 5: 43-48)

The Golden Rule - Love in Action:

Jesus summarizes ethical living by teaching that we should treat others as we wish to be treated, grounding love in empathy, justice, and active obedience.

(Matt 7:12)

"The Right Now"

Last week, 1st and 2nd graders participated in a special lesson during Mass as part of their First Holy Communion Prep. They learned more about The Beatitudes and finding true happiness in God. Then, on Tuesday, Fr. Joe, Fr. Michael, and Dcn. Mike made some special visits to bless the throats of students (and teachers!) at St. William the Abbot School and our Faith Formation program to celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise.



SWA CYO BASKETBALL

**FOR BOYS & GIRLS
IN 3RD 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**

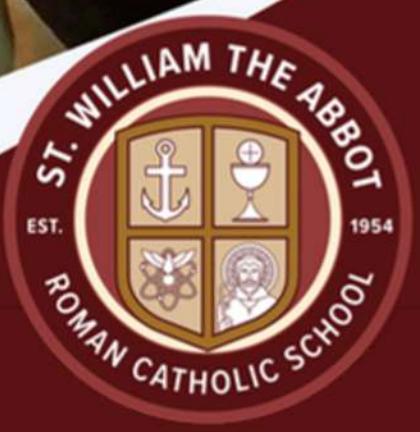
**Congratulations!
Fr. Joe!**

Fr. Joe is being honored by the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on Long Island at their annual Emerald Ball in March!

Father serves as the chaplain of the organization, which is comprised of "Sons of Erin" and their descendants who are interested in economic development of "the homeland" as well as Long Island and promotion of the rich culture of our ancestors. They are devoted to the betterment of the less fortunate, both here and in Ireland.



Discover St. William the Abbot



OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 12, 2026
6:30 - 8pm

TEACHING AS CHRIST DID

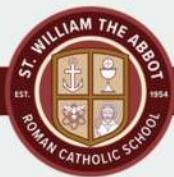
- Early Childhood (N-Pre-K)
- Elementary School (Grades K-5)
- Middle School (Grades 6-8)



2001 Jackson Avenue Seaford, NY 11783

stwilliamtheabbot.net | 516-785-6784





The SWS Home School Association, under the leadership of Mrs. Laura Moccia, went to great lengths to show the SWS Faculty and Staff just how much they are appreciated, providing a delicious luncheon and generous gifts to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Day. It was a beautiful celebration and a great way to end Catholic Schools Week!



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: "Servant Song" (#385)

Communion Hymn: "Take and Eat" (#364)

Communion Meditation: "Goodness of God"

Recessional Hymn: "In the Day of the Lord" (#600)

Our Children's and Adult Choirs are back in session - visit 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

Oatmeal Canisters - Pretzels - Egg Noodles - Cereal - Men's Razors

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.

Senior Veterans' Lunch Friday, February 13

There will be a Senior Veterans' Lunch on Friday February 13 at the Bethpage Community Center. This luncheon is provided by the Nassau County Office for the Aging. Doors open for this event at 11:30am. To RSVP, visit www.nassaucountyny.gov/aging-events or call 516-571-9910.

Volunteer Spotlight - Shower Kits for The Inn

Last week students from Massapequa Middle School and High School pitched in to create over 50 shower kits for The INN in Hempstead. At The INN, showers are available for individuals that do not have a permanent residence. These shower kits will allow individuals to have everything they need readily available for their shower appointment. The kits contain a towel, washcloth, shampoo, soap, razor, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste and body lotion. Thank you to these dedicated students for their service! Student participants were Olivia Innes, Arden Pace, Jaiya Arjune and Arya Arjune.



Saint Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine grew up in Sudan and was kidnapped and enslaved when she was seven years old. She was sold to an Italian family, moved to Italy, and was freed. Saint Josephine worked as a babysitter for a young girl and attended a Catholic school with her. She found a deep love for God and understood His love for her. She became Catholic and entered a convent as a nun.

In the convent, one of her first jobs was to greet visitors. Her kindness toward the guests left people amazed. Saint Josephine spent the rest of her life praying for others and showing her trust in God.

In
God's
will,
there
is
great
peace.



Year A: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catholic Kids Bulletin

February 8, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

THEPZJUSTIEOWAMANDKWJZ

The just man
is a light in
darkness to
the upright.

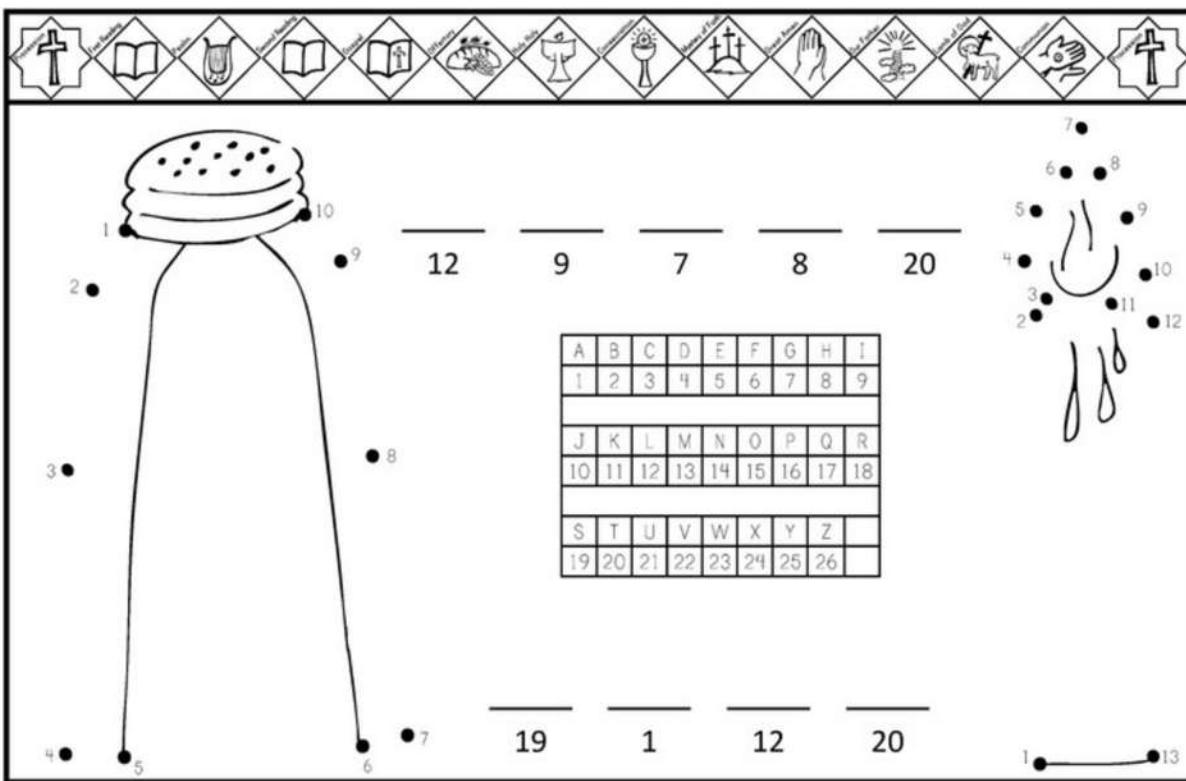
BPEOTHEKWUPRIGHTI

WPDARKNESSWOTIVHTOPZKJI



How many times do you
say "And with your spirit"
during Mass?

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Jesus told his disciples to be the salt of the earth and the light for the world.

Year A: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Rev. Joseph H. Fitzgerald
Pastor

Rev. Michael Edathil
Associate Pastor

priests@stwilliam.org

Deacons

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Dcn. Anthony Cedrone (Retired)
information@stwilliam.org

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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 - Barbara Geraghty
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
drv.org

Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand
formed.org

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation: Financial Aid for Catholic Schools
tomorrowhopefoundation.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.I.D
Most Rev. Andrzej Zglejszewski
Most Rev. John C. Dunne (Retired)

Bishop Emeritus
Most Reverend William Murphy
drv.org