



# 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

### **Monday, February 9th**

8:30am: Kenneth Hettler, John Laddomada,

Angela Capo, Jack Winters

### **Tuesday, February 10th**

8:30am: Richard Troise, Sr.

### **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!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Joe".



## **Baptisms**

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

Kelly Fox  
Lillie Leonardi

## **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.



## **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)

## **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*



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# BEHOLD

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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)

## **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)

## **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)

## **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)

## **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)

## **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, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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**

*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.

[www.fsspli.org](http://www.fsspli.org)





# *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 Seafood, NY 11783

[stwilliamtheabbot.net](http://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](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***

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](http://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

BPEOTHEKWUPRIGHTI

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


BPWISLAOELIGHTINK


WPDARKNESSWOTIVHTOPZKJI





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

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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	



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**

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 - 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  
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