

St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

Fifth Sunday of Lent March 21, 2021



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." - John 12:23

PARISH INFORMATION

RECTORY

Office: 516.785.1266
2000 Jackson Avenue
Seaford, NY 11783
stwilliam.org

RECTORY HOURS

Monday - Friday
9 AM - 1 PM
Saturday
9 AM - 6 PM
Sunday
9 AM - 1 PM

MASS TIMES

The presider schedule can be found on the parish website stwilliam.org

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday
8:30 AM & 5 PM
Sunday
7:30 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM, & 12 PM

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Janice DiPasquale
People of St. William's
Rudy Koenig
Michael Mosca

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Collective Intentions
Donato DiLeo
Donald Clark
Frank Tabone
John R. Isaac
Mary Bianco

Monday, March 22, 2021

Marie Carpenter

Friday, March 26, 2021

Joseph Callahan

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Paul E. Lundwall

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Purgatorial Society
Collective Intentions
Grace Magrino
Jack & Patricia Haglund
Helen M. Sheehy
People of St. William's

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Regis Legoff
Maggie Marcinczyk (liv)

Church Opening During Lent

The Church will be open for private prayer Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM during Lent. If there is something taking place in the church such as a funeral, wedding, class, parent meetings, RCIA, etc., parishioners should understand that they should not remain in church during these activities.

Pray for the Deceased

Kenneth Grof
Eleanor Gartner
Mildred Mancuso
Rosemarie Mills

Domenica Augello
Aladino Gregorio
Charles J. DeVerna, Jr.

Pray for the Sick

John Finan
Vittoria Tacchetti
Diane O'Neill
Anthony Princhinello
Viviana Trapani
Tyler Donohue

Lauren Connell
Gary Panzl
Gerry Polizzi
Gigi Priola
Dorothy Meinke

The Wine and Hosts, Sanctuary Candles, and Altar Candles used at mass this week -

To all parishioners, colleagues, and members of the St. William community who have touched and enriched my life by serving the Lord through all of you...Forever thankful, Rosemary Graziano

He Loved Us First

The desert journey of Lent has had its challenging moments, but never have I felt so aware that God, and all of you, are right there walking with me. The Scriptures tell us, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies... it cannot produce much fruit." The cross/crucifixion shows us the way to new life and an abundant harvest being prepared for us, especially when we struggle. Remember, it is God who moved towards us, came to us in the flesh, which allowed that to happen. The main message is that we have a loving God who takes action, who moves, who gives. The movement always begins from the Heavenly Father. So often we hear that people are on this quest to find meaning, or friendship with God, as if it was up to us to initiate and maintain the relationship. It is always God who moves towards us, and it is in our humanity and struggle that we pull away from His Love.

If you look at some of the most moving scripture verses these past few weeks, such as the meeting of Nicodemus, the encounter of Jesus and the woman at the well, or Matthew "the tax collector" who is shunned by the Jewish community, or the fisherman on the shoreline who drop everything to follow Jesus, or even the sick mother-in-law of Saint Peter, you will see these are all examples of Jesus going to people. The Lord initiates the contact and relationship. Whether it be the Greeks this week, or Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish community last week, there is a cost to follow Jesus, or even to have any contact or connection with Him. All these individuals in the Scriptures are searching for better understanding of who this "Jesus of Nazareth" is – and God in HIS wisdom literally meets them all where they are.

Why would it be any different with you and me? Jesus is pursuing us, walking with us, and allowing us to maintain our freedom in the relationship. Meaning he does not "make" us follow him, or "make" us come to him. Like previous disciples, for many of us there is much to lose as well. We live in a culture and society that is striving for anything and everything but God, with all these distractions and shiny things that keep us away from reality and what appears to be important. And yet that constant grasping at the things of this world rarely bring us any sense of contentment and peace. In fact, so many of you have shared the difference of movement and activity in the spring of 2021 now that sports leagues, practices, tutoring, and so many other events have begun to divide you and your families in a very scattered way. The tough choices of going along with the crowd; what everyone else is doing and participating in and going to. I believe the acronym is F.O.M.O, (Fear of Missing Out). The Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and Tik Tok world shows how great everyone else's life is – our friends, our enemies, Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga. Yet the beauty of our time last year (Spring 2020) was we were forced into spending time together, whether it was around the kitchen table, living room, a fire pit, and those late afternoon walks as a family. And what exactly happened there? Conversations, between spouses, teenage children and grandchildren, grocery pick-ups for elderly family members and neighbors, and just in general hunkering down together. In the midst of it all, God was there.

I have shared in homilies where people in our community have spoken to me about the intensity of their prayer experience last year. The prayer time opened up channels of communication not only with God, but with loved ones that either healed relationships, or ended unhealthy ones. Marriages that were on the rocks were miraculously transformed, children who were in isolation because of the busyness of their parents' work began to speak with siblings and parents and grandparents, and unhealthy relationships led to couples to investigate and uncover why they 'were even really together,' and in some cases ending long-term dating and engaged relationships. Some of the experiences were difficult, and even at times painful, but have led to an incredible freedom and liberation. That does not take away from the fact that the Pandemic brought the loss of loved ones, or careers, or lifestyles modifications. Once again, God was there with us. He loved and continues to love us.

One year ago, all our lives were changed forever due to the Corona Virus. The question now is how will we move forward as a people of faith? What will dictate our direction and time? What and where will we invest our time and focus? Towards a world and activities that distract us and consume us and our loved ones? Or will we sit in that image of Favored and Beloved children being pursued by our Heavenly Father? God so Loved the world, that He sent His son Jesus to walk with us, to struggle with us, to laugh with us, and at times to suffer with us. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies" the hopeful abundant fruit cannot bloom, but that can only happen when we slow down, turn toward Him and receive that love. In these last few weeks of Lent – what needs to be pruned away or in some cases die in your life to experience the New Life that God promises? If you have not done so already, allow for some time and space for God, not to remind you of where you may have slipped up or missed the mark, but simply to remember, and receive the Light of God's Love.

Thank you for your presence and generosity.



Rectory News

Easter Flowers

Envelopes for Easter Flowers have been sent to parishioners who receive their monthly envelopes. These envelopes provide an opportunity to remember loved ones this Easter by providing Easter Flowers. Additional Easter Flower envelopes can be found at the doors of the church. Please place the envelope in the collection basket or bring to the Rectory.

Year-End Tax Statements

Please note that year-end statements for your taxes will not be automatically mailed out. They may be obtained upon request from the Rectory. Please call 516-785-1266 to request your statement, or email your name, address, phone number and envelope number to information@stwilliam.org.

Memorializing

The Rectory is issuing Mass Cards, enrollment in the Purgatorial Society, Memorializing the Wine, Host, Candles and Altar Flowers. Please call the Rectory for more information (516) 785-1266 or email information@stwilliam.org

Emergency

If there is an emergency in which you need to contact a priest immediately, please call the Priest Emergency telephone - 516-312-7361.

Light a Prayer Candle

Lighting candles has long been a sacred ritual in all traditions, creating precious moments in our own and other people's lives where we pray for loved ones, friends, and ask for or give support.



Low Gluten Hosts Available at Mass

For those who must avoid gluten in their diet, the parish has low-gluten hosts available for Holy Communion. If you wish to receive such a host, please arrive prior to Mass and inform the priest and he will place your host in a oyx.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to decorate the Church for Holy Week.

Please email information@stwilliam.org for more information on the dates and time.

Memorials Available

We are pleased to announce that the Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Candles that are used at Mass throughout the week are now available as memorials.

Anyone wishing to donate the Sanctuary Candle or the Altar Candles in memory of a loved one or on the occasion of an anniversary, birthday, etc., can make this request at the Rectory. Please call 516-785-1266. The offering for the Sanctuary Candle is \$15 and the offering for the Altar Candles is \$30. The name of the person will be announced in the bulletin for each week the candles are donated.

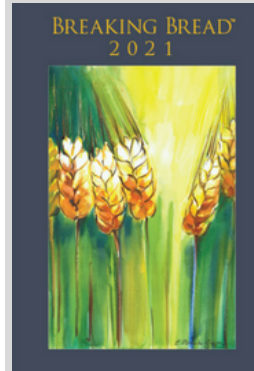
LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

Join us online to view our live-streamed masses on the parish website stwilliam.org.

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM
Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM

Missals

At this time we are able to offer the sale of individual missals for \$10 per missal. Please bring a check for \$10 payable to St. William the Abbot or \$10 exact cash to the rectory. There will be no change for cash purchases. We have a limited number at this time, so it is a first come first served basis.



Monday of Mercy

Monday of Mercy (Confession)
Church – 7:00 – 8:00 PM
March 22 – for the parish



Email List

If you are not currently on our email list and would like to receive email updates on parish news and the bulletin, in your inbox please register on the parish website.

stwilliam.org

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be live-streamed on the parish Facebook account on **Friday, March 19 at 4pm.**

COVID-19 Update - Still Cautious and Aware

Friends, I write to you a second letter this week because a number of you have expressed some concerns and questions as the world begins to 'open up' while at the same time we remain in the midst of a global pandemic. I have had wonderful conversations and email dialogue with many of you on both sides of the aisle (pun definitely intended) expressing both concerns in the opening up of the world and the desire to move in that direction for us as a parish. I thought it would be helpful if I could address a couple of things that would give you a sense of where I believe we are at as a community entrusted with this great mission to bring the message of Christ's love to the world.

Father James, Father Collins, and I are all anxious to get back to a more regular rhythm of ministry and presence in the parish and community. As I had mentioned earlier in the year, the hope would be to look at Easter as a time to reevaluate how and when things will open up. There are more people who have received the vaccine or have actually had the virus, and there's a confidence to be back "in" the world of ministry. However, we also know there are still so many who have not received the vaccine, or have the antibodies of the virus, who regularly attend or watch from afar on the live stream. The staff at St. William the Abbot Parish has been hard at work to plan for this sacred and joyous season of hope. However, this year we continue to have an additional priority, which is the health and welfare of all parishioners in a COVID-19 environment. Lent has been long for many of us, and this past year even longer without the blessing of being together in person at the Sacrifice of the Mass. Many of our liturgical celebrations will be live-streamed for parishioners and family members still not ready to attend.

With that being said, I thought I would lay out the strategy for all of us as a community to look ahead at the potential opening of the ministries. We are now within two weeks of Easter, and following Easter the celebrations of First Holy Communion, Mother's Day, Confirmation, and SWS 8th grade graduation in early June. Last year our hearts were yearning for community, and especially the hope of Easter Sunday - and being so close to that celebration as well as other milestones for our parish has been the motivation for my decision to hold back that full opening of the ministries. I think we all understand that if one or all the priests test positive for the virus, St William the Abbot once again will not have Easter Liturgies to celebrate. We do not want that to happen.

The precautions will continue to limit the amount of people who enter into the sanctuary during the celebration of weekday and Sunday Eucharist. We are still refraining from extra activity in the aisles such as the presentation of the gifts, the manual collection done by our ushers, as well as having our parish installed lectors read at our funeral liturgies. We are also looking to allow for outdoor liturgies celebrated in the field/parking lot for Palm Sunday weekend and Holy Week, similar to what was done on Christmas Eve when we had close to 500 parishioners join us in their cars, backyard chairs, or by standing near the altar. I hope to extend that outdoor experience into the Spring/Summer with a temporary sanctuary to bring us through the Summer and into next Fall. I believe these precautions will allow more people to come to the parish for the celebration of the Eucharist that is both reverent and safe, as well as allow for new ministries and ministry opportunities that the Lord will present to and for us.

We look forward to welcoming you all back home for Easter and throughout the Easter Season. Please be attentive to future announcements where I will gather with individual ministries and their leadership to discuss the next steps. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience during these unprecedented times.

Peace,

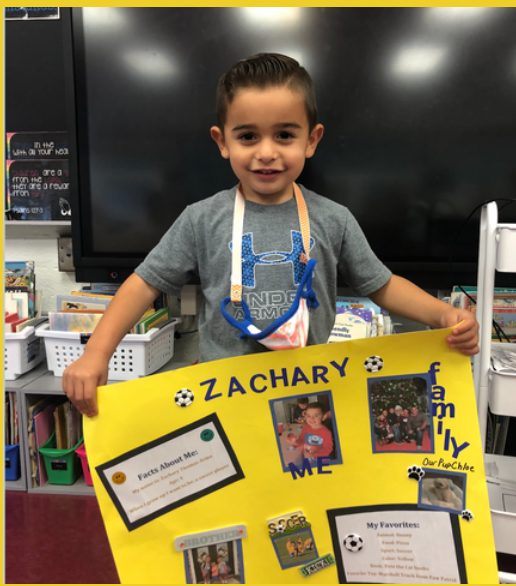
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Faith Formation

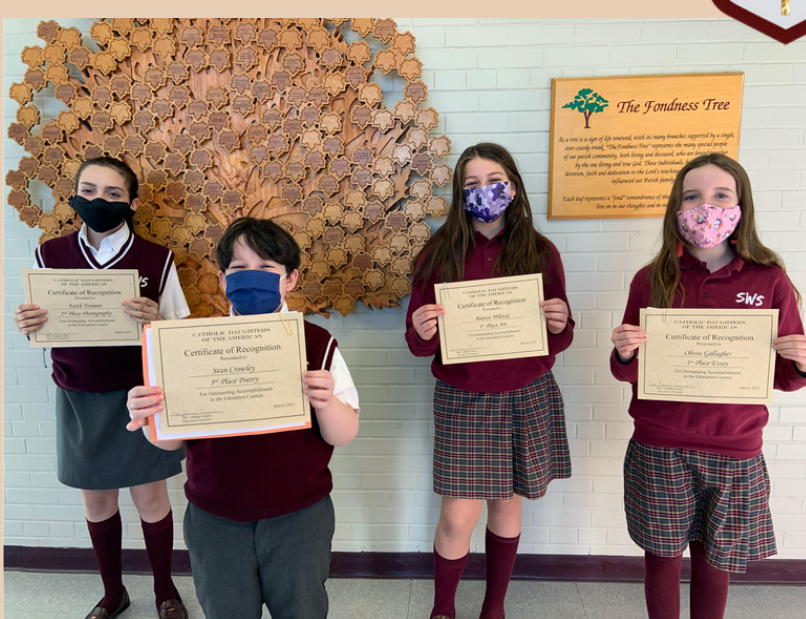
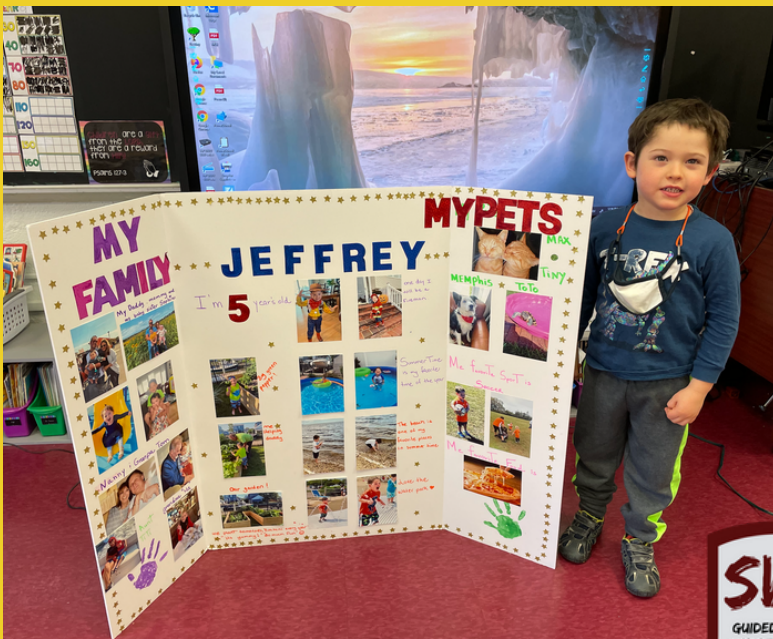
We begin our fifth week of Lent. “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat.” In order to flourish with God, he gave us his only son, Jesus, who suffered and was crucified for us. With Jesus dying on the cross for us he gave us life. By going to Mass and receiving Communion that is a way that Jesus gives us nourishment to go on day by day and also through prayer. We all have our struggles, but we get through them because of having Faith and praying and following Jesus’ footsteps. Do not ever feel that you are alone. God the Father is always there holding you up, just as he was by Jesus’ side when he was suffering. We need to love each other, spread the good news, and become more like Jesus. If we stop caring, stop spreading love, and stop helping each other, what will it be like for our eternal life? It is a good time during Lent to think and be more like Jesus.

On Thursday, March 11th, Fr. Collins explained to the Faith Formation Parents and Students in detail about the Seven Sacraments. He even had a couple of students who were used as models wearing a Priest Collar. The 8th Grade Students had their Confirmation Retreat. Fr. Joe, Seminarian Stephen Rooney, Seminarian Joe Lettieri, and Nolan Reynolds, who are all from the Diocese, spoke to the Students. The students started in the Abbey with discussion and doing some activities and ended in the Church with Fr. Joe teaching the Students about Adoration and how you can pray and receive help from Jesus. The students were all engaged and learned a lot. Confirmation paperwork should have been handed in already and if you have not, please do so as soon as possible. Any concerns, please contact the Faith Formation Office.





Miss Brown's Brownies are having lots of fun being the Star of the Week! Each week a new child gets to be the Star. To end the week they get to create an All About Me poster to present to the class!



“Let all you do be done with love.” 1 Cor. 16:14

This was the theme for this year's Catholic Daughters of America Contest, in which students of St. William the Abbot School traditionally participate. The 2021 Education Contest had four winners from our school. Olivia Gallagher, 5-2, won First Place in the Division 1 Essay Category. Sean Crowley, 4-1, earned Third Place in the Division 1 Poetry Category. Bianca Milevoj, 5-2, won First Place in the Division 1 Art Category and Faith Troiano, 8-1, earned Second Place in the Division 2 Photography Category.

Congratulations to all our winners! We are so proud of you!



8th Grade Youth Olympics



ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT RC CHURCH



Join Fr. Joe, Fr. James, & Fr. Collins

*Paint
Night
Fundraiser*

Friday, April 23

6pm - 8pm

2001 Jackson Avenue

St. William the Abbot School Gym

MASKS MUST BE WORN & SOCIAL DISTANCE PRACTICED

\$75 Per Painter

Raffles

50/50

Pizza

Dessert

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Amount of Painters: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____

Please mail or drop off the registration form to the Rectory office.
Registration is on a first come, first serve basis until spots are filled.



PODCAST

CONVERSATIONS WITH PODRE



WEEKLY PODCAST EPISODES
POSTED ON WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM

Associate Pastor
FR. JAMES HANSEN



LISTEN ON:

FIVE PODCAST EPISODES
AVAILABLE ON
SPOTIFY.COM
APPLE PODCAST
AND
STWILLIAM.ORG



Paint Night Fundraiser Fun Facts



Come witness Fr. James,
Fr. Joes, & Fr. Collins
painting skills

A great night for couples,
families, and friends

50/50 raffle

Spots are first,
come first serve.

Dessert

Pizza

Over 20 baskets to raffles

MASKS MUST BE WORN & SOCIAL DISTANCE PRACTICED

"If we acknowledge
our sins, he is
faithful and just
and will forgive our
sins and cleanse us
from every
wrongdoing."
—1 John 1:9



2021 Reconciliation Monday

On **Monday, March 29th, 2021**, Confessions will be
available from **3pm-9pm** in all Catholic Churches
within the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Diocese of
Brooklyn, and Archdiocese of New York.

www.archny.org/lent • www.drvc.org • www.dobq.org



A Pastoral Letter
by Bishop John O. Barres



Available online by visiting:

www.thegreatweek.com

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

US Navy -

Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald
Ian Bayer, Ensign
Rebecca Bayer, Ensign
Ensign Michael Napolitano
MMN2 Emily Partridge
Commander Michael Sean Slatley

US Air Force -

Capt. Matthew B. Frasse
Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers
AIC William Hughes
Tech. Sgt. Karl Muench
Major Thomas F. Shields

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
Sgt. Brian Kirby
Major Eamon G. McArdle
Sgt. Donald Rogers
Major Christopher James Ustler
Major Kurtis Unger

USMC -

Lt. Kevin J. Butler
2nd Lt. Dana Duggan
Corporal Frank A. Finocchio
L.Cpl. John Mosier

US Coast Guard -

Lt. James Knudsen
Daniel Timpanaro
LT. Commander Katherine Ustler
Frank Pristera

STUMP THE PRIEST !



QUESTION: If the Church believes and teaches that at Mass the host turns into Jesus, why does it still taste like bread?

Before we go into any “churchy” words, let us try to understand something using an example like the common bread we eat almost every day. When we have bread to eat, we see bread and we taste bread in the way we have known them to look and taste like. However, within the bread are hidden some nutrients that we actually do not see with our eyes nor taste with our tongues. Yet these nutrients are the essential reasons we eat the bread. Weak as this analogy may be, it could very much be likened to the belief that the Catholic Church has in the Holy Eucharist or the Communion.

At Mass we see and we taste bread and wine in the very forms and tastes known to our senses of sight and taste. However, faith teaches us that the hidden reality, unperceived by our senses of sight and taste, is the real presence of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that immediately after consecration-that is when the Priest invokes the power of the Holy Spirit upon the species of bread and wine- the species of bread and wine undergo a spiritual transformation into the real body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, together with his Soul and Divinity. His body exists under the species of bread and his blood under the species of wine. This means that what we receive under the visible species of bread and wine are no more ordinary bread and wine, but actually, essentially, substantially and spiritually, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, his Soul and his Divinity.

The proper church terminology for this transformation is Transubstantiation; it happens through the power of God who works in and through the consecrated Priest. In explaining what the Church means by Transubstantiation it may be of value to again take an everyday example. It is a matter of ordinary observation that in the growth process a person changes over the years with respect to his or her coloring, figure, and indeed the whole visible appearance; yet he or she remains the same person. This compels us to distinguish between substantially, the independent beings of the person, on the one hand, and the modes of being, the variables, on the other. We may call one sphere the visible dimension of a person’s being recognizable by the senses, and the other, the visible dimension which cannot be seen.

In conclusion, it is worth asserting the presence of Jesus Christ in the consecrated bread and wine cannot be tested or confirmed by any of the natural means of knowledge available to us-neither by sight, taste, touch or smell. It is also worth noting that he promised his presence among us in other means like when two or three gather in his name (Mt 18:20), in the evangelizing mission of the Church, (Mt 28:20), when the church carries out works of mercy towards “the least of his brethren”(Mt 25:31-46). While all of these means of his presence with us are not perceivable by our senses, they are held on to and affirmed only through faith in him, in the Gospel, and in the saving power of his work.



Palm Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5:00 PM

Sunday - 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:00 N

The Ushers will distribute palms to all parishioners as they arrive for Mass.

Safety

Dispensation from Mass

As a reminder, the dispensation from the requirement to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Those who are most vulnerable and at a greater risk (due to age, preexisting health conditions or being in close proximity to vulnerable people) are encouraged to remain home at this time.

If a person shows any symptoms of illness, they are asked to please not come to church. We encourage you to join us for Mass online on the parish website stwilliam.org

Overflow Space

We do have overflow space in the Abbey for Masses. Please follow the directions of our Ushers if the Church reaches capacity and you are asked to attend the Mass in the Abbey.

While attending Mass during this difficult time

- Please sanitize your hands
- If you are a family please occupy a pew
- Be kind and considerate
- Please keep social distance
- Don't congregate in the Church or parking lot before or after Mass
- Touch a bulletin, please bring it home

Love for our neighbors should be one of the primary considerations.

Safety Protocols

As more of you are returning back to in-person Mass, we want to re-emphasize that all of our safety protocols are still in place.

Please allow the ushers to seat you - they have been carefully trained in our seating arrangement that will enable us to get the maximum number of worshippers seated in the Sanctuary while maintaining social distancing.



Communion by Car Line for High-Risk Individuals

Please consider virtual Mass if you are high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.

Weather permitting, we will continue to offer outdoor Communion (via car line) on Sundays at 1 PM, following the live-streamed Mass at 12 PM.

Holy Communion

Because of concerns regarding the coronavirus, we request that those who choose to receive on the tongue wait at the end of the line. Please present themselves to the priest only to receive Holy Communion, and are asked to open their mouth and extend their tongue so the host can be placed on it without the priest's hand making contact with the recipient.

If you choose to receive in the hand, please place your hand out very straight and flat to allow the priest or minister to place the Eucharist safely in order to avoid contact with your hand. We also kindly remind everyone to please remove your mask before receiving Holy Communion, whether you choose to receive on the tongue or in the hand. Please put it back on after you have consumed the host.

Holy Communion



When it is time to receive Holy Communion, please practice social distancing as you walk in the communion line. On the way back to your pew please maintain spacing. Everyone will come down the center aisles to receive communion. Please do not rush back to your seats.

Arrive Early & Wear Your Mask



We do ask that everyone arrive early so that we can seat everyone before the start of Mass. **We ask that all parishioners wear their mask covering their nose and mouth at all times while inside the church.**

Sacristy



For the safety of our Priests, we ask that parishioners refrain from entering the Sacristy. Please do not hand offering envelopes, letters etc. to the Priests. Please drop them off in the Rectory Mail Slot.

We Pray for all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit. For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety. For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace, comfort, and healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

Staying Connected

With St. William the Abbot visit us at stwilliam.org to view our bulletin online, presider schedule, and see other parish information.



Facebook: Find us at:
[stwilliamabbot](https://www.facebook.com/stwilliamabbot)



Instagram: Follow us:
[@stwilliamabbot](https://www.instagram.com/stwilliamabbot)



YouTube: Find us at:
[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) — St. William the Abbot Church

Parish Contact Information

CONTACT THE PRIESTS

Please send your email to priests@stwilliam.org to contact Fr. Joe, Fr. James or Fr. Collins directly.

CONTACT THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Please send your email to pastoralcouncil@stwilliam.org.

QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Please send your email to igomez@stwilliam.org.

QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTORY

Please send your email to information@stwilliam.org.

CONTACT THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Please send your email to jgoldman@stwilliam.org.

CONTACT FAITH FORMATION

Please send your email to faithformation@stwilliam.org or contact the office directly at (516) 783-2528.

CONTACT SOCIAL MINISTRY

Please send your email to socialministry@stwilliam.org or contact the office directly at (516) 679-8532.

CONTACT THE SCHOOL St. William the Abbot School



Office: 516.785.1266
2001 Jackson Avenue
Seaford, NY 11783
stwilliamtheabbot.net
(516) 785-6784

Parish Social Ministry

Food Donations

The food donations bins will no longer be located in the Church. Please bring all donations directly to Parish Social Ministry Office, the church no longer has donation bins. The Social Ministry office is located South of the Church.

Monday - Friday

9:30am - 4:00pm

Sunday

By Appointment Only

Food Pantry

**Tomato Puree
White Rice
Breadcrumbs**

**Laundry Detergent
Canned Carrots
Canned Beef Stew**

Easter

Looking for a special family activity to do for Lent? Why not create an Easter food basket that can be donated to Parish Social Ministry? These baskets will be given to the families we support for their Easter celebrations. Baskets can be decorated for the holiday and can include things such as breakfast and dinner items, and perhaps a little Easter candy. Baskets should be small to medium in size to ensure our clients are able to easily lift them. If you would prefer to make a donation instead of a basket, grocery store gift cards are always welcomed for families to purchase fresh foods such as dairy and produce.

Caring for the Caregiver

Although our program cannot currently meet we are reaching out to those who are caring for a homebound family member. You are filled with compassion for your loved one, it is not an easy situation. The time involved and the emotions you experience can be overwhelming. Particularly at this time you may be without a backup caregiver which compounds the stress. If you would like to call to speak to someone experienced with these situation, please do so (516) 679-8532.

Homebound

Do you know someone who is homebound or lonely? Please let us know so we can reach out to them in the spirit of Christ. Perhaps they need someone to food shop for them. Please call (516) 679-8532.

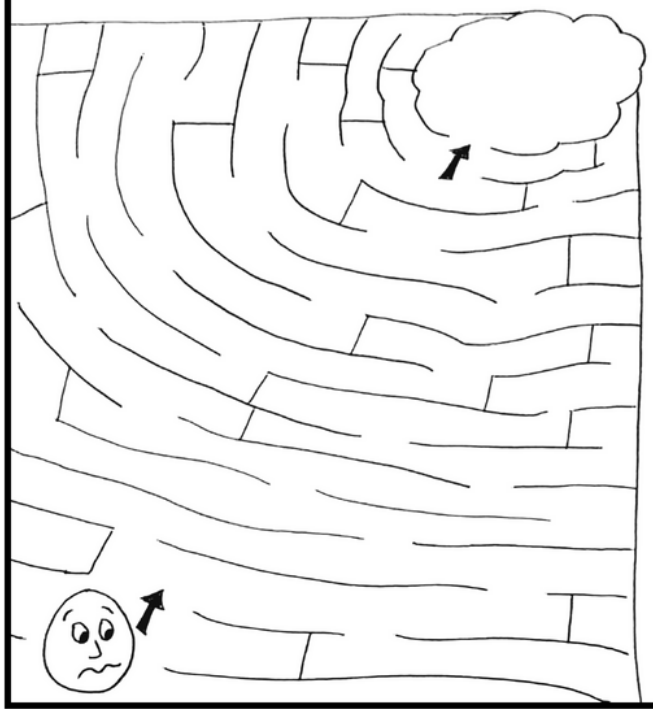
Bereavement

Although we are not yet holding in-person Bereavement Ministry sessions, trained facilitators are available to support you in your grief journey. Let us help you to find peace while dealing with your loss. Please call Parish Social Ministry at 679-8532 so we can discuss support options currently available.

Saints Perpetua and Saint Felicity

Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity were best friends. They learned about God together and became Christians. Ask them to pray for your friends.

God asks us to search for good friends. Find a way through the maze and draw a saint as a friend in Heaven.



JEIWOGODPWKEOIK
 Create a clean heart in me, O God.
 WPCLEANPHEARTOK
 PWAINPKODMEOWAKSODPWLAKI

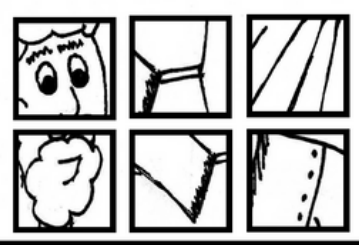


If you have struggled with your Lenten goals, this is a good time to start again with your fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.



Match the numbers below to the number of grains on each stalk of wheat.

7	8	9	10	11
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Gospel

Jesus knows that he will die on the cross. He tells his disciples that he will die soon.



What is RCIA?

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and it is the process by which unbaptized adults become Catholic. It is also the way those baptized in other Christian faiths to enter into full communion with the Church by receiving Communion and Confirmation, or for baptized Catholics to complete these sacraments if they haven't already.

How long does it take to become Catholic?

There is not a one size fits all answer to that question. Adult baptisms for Catechumens usually take place at the Easter Vigil, the night before Easter Sunday. Ideally the process would last most of a year or longer depending on the situation. For a baptized Christian of another faith community, the process could proceed rather quickly, only a few months, or longer depending on their own formation and participation in their present faith community. For Catholics who are missing sacraments the process can take a few months or longer.

Why is it important for a baptized Catholic to complete their sacraments?

Baptism is the entryway into life with Christ, but no one is fully initiated until they receive Confirmation and Eucharist. Confirmation is also needed in order to become a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor, or for marriage to another Catholic with a few exceptions. Eucharist is the summit and source of our faith, and if we can't receive it we are missing out on the graces we receive through Holy Communion.

Are their tests or homework?

The simple answer is no! However we encourage Catechumens and Candidates to read and explore things on their own, to keep a journal of their thoughts, insights and questions, and to talk things over with sponsors. Of course we expect them to attend Sunday Mass with the parish community and get involved.

Can you become Catholic if you are divorced?

Yes, but with caveats. It depends on the situation of the previous marriage, and that of the current spouse, if there is one. Some marriage situations are easy to rectify and some take a bit longer. Marriage situations do not preclude candidates from attending sessions to prepare to enter the Church. One of our priests will assist the candidate in this regard.

What are these rituals?

There are a number of rituals that occur at a Sunday Mass. These are steps, so to speak, to enter the Church. They are public rites, and the parish community prays with the Catechumens and candidates at this time. For those who will be baptized at Easter, they will come together.

How much does all this cost?

One of the best things about RCIA is that it is FREE!

I am already Catholic, why should I know about RCIA?

We all may know family members or friends who are not Catholic but may have shown some interest in our faith, or those who have not completed their sacraments. As Catholics we are called, by Christ, to share the Good News with others. This might mean making suggestions to others that they explore Catholicism. If you know about RCIA you can let them know about it and how to go about getting started.

What does Catechumen mean?

There are a lot of churchy words in RCIA. A Catechumen is a person preparing for Baptism. It is an ancient term meaning one who receives instruction by word of mouth. A candidate is someone from another Christian faith or a Catholic preparing for Confirmation. There are other words that are learned as the person goes along in the process.

What do RCIA sessions look like?

Sessions are usually held once a month on Sunday after Mass. We meet, discuss the Sunday scriptures, and then have a presentation on Catholic teachings. Sessions are informal and are not classes but faith sharing and exploration of our relationship with Christ, always striving to go deeper into that relationship with God and the Parish community. Our textbook is the Bible, videos, and other materials exploring the Catholic faith.

What is a sponsor?

A sponsor is someone who accompanies a person on their RCIA journey. Sponsors are usually from the parish community, but sponsors may be chosen by the person if the sponsor is a practicing Catholic who has received all their sacraments of Initiation and is in good standing with the Church. A Catechumen may also choose Godparents in addition to a sponsor.

Can children be in RCIA?

RCIA sessions are geared for adults. However children do take part in certain rituals that are part of the process. They are usually catechized through the parish school or faith formation. In cases with older children or teens, there may be specific sessions set up for them and their parents.

Can I accompany someone to RCIA sessions?

Of course! Many Catholics who join a relative or friend at sessions find that they learn things about the Catholic faith that they did not know before. It also gives the Catechumen or Candidate someone else to discuss things with after the sessions.

How does someone get started in RCIA?

Go to our website at stwilliam.org/rcia. Fill out the registration form and the Inquiry form and email it back to rcia@stwilliam.org. You will be contacted by our coordinator regarding starting sessions.



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January 2021

Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines

The development of vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has received much public attention and raised several ethical questions related to their development and use. This document is intended to provide concise answers to some of those ethical questions as well as links to more in-depth resources.

Is it true that there is a connection between some vaccines and abortion?

Yes. Several decades ago, tissue harvested from the bodies of aborted babies was used to create certain cell lines for research purposes. The cells in these lines are, in effect, the descendants of those cells that were originally harvested. They have been made to replicate themselves and some cell lines can be reproduced indefinitely. These abortion-derived cell lines are used as a “factory” to manufacture certain vaccines (e.g. rubella, chickenpox, some of the COVID-19 vaccines, etc.).ⁱ The cells themselves, however, are not present in the vaccines that patients receive.

What does the Church say about abortion-derived cell lines and their connection to vaccines?

The Holy See, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy for Life, has provided guidance on this topic on four occasions.ⁱⁱ This guidance has made it clear that it is wrong to create abortion-derived cell lines and for pharmaceutical companies to utilize them, that the use of vaccines produced with such cell lines should be avoided if comparable alternatives with no connection to abortion are available, that grave reasons (e.g., serious health risks) may justify the use of vaccines produced with these cell lines when there are no such alternatives, and that everyone concerned for the sanctity of life should protest the use of these cell lines and advocate for the development of vaccines with no connection to abortion.

Do COVID-19 vaccines use abortion-derived cell lines?

As of the date of this writing, hundreds of vaccines for COVID-19 are in development worldwide, and more than a dozen are in the final stages of testing. Some don't use abortion-derived cell lines at all, some have used such cell lines to test the vaccine's efficacy, and some are using such cell lines in the development and/or the production phases. There are currently two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) being distributed for use in the United States, and there are others that are likely to be made available in the coming months (e.g., AstraZeneca, Janssen, etc.).ⁱⁱⁱ Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used an abortion-derived cell line in the development or production of the vaccine. However, such a cell line was used to test the efficacy of both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any use of abortion-derived cell lines, in these two cases the use is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion. The AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines raise additional moral concerns because an abortion-derived cell line is used not only for testing, but also in development and production.

Is it morally acceptable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines?

Given that the COVID-19 virus can involve serious health risks, it can be morally acceptable to receive a vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines if there are no other available vaccines comparable in safety and efficacy with no connection to abortion. If it is possible to choose among a number of equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen.^{iv} If a vaccine with no connection to abortion-derived cell lines is not readily available, vaccines that used such cell lines only for testing would be preferable to those that use such cell lines for ongoing

production. Such choices may not be possible, however, especially in the early stages of vaccine distribution. In that case, one may receive any of the clinically recommended vaccines in good conscience with the assurance that reception of such vaccines does not involve immoral cooperation in abortion.^v

Is there a moral obligation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has noted recently that “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary. In any case, from the ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one’s own health but also on the duty to pursue the common good.”^{vi} And it said that “in the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic” vaccination may promote the common good, “especially to protect the weakest and most exposed.” For a vaccine to be effective in protecting society, most people need to be vaccinated in order to break the chain of disease transmission from person to person throughout the community. The Congregation also said that those who refuse to get vaccinated must do their utmost, by taking all the necessary precautions, to avoid “becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.”

What can those who uphold the sanctity of life do to protest against the use of abortion-derived cell lines and advocate for ethical vaccines?

First, inform yourself and others about how some vaccines are connected to abortion through the use of abortion-derived cell lines, and about which vaccines use such cell lines. Second, inform your doctor about this connection and ask him or her to provide ethical vaccines, when possible. Third, urge pharmaceutical companies and medical researchers to discontinue using abortion-derived cell lines, and thank them when they do.^{vii}

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?

The bishops are not and do not claim to be authorities on the safety and efficacy of vaccines. People should rely on information from authoritative sources in the field of medicine and public health, such as the Food and Drug Administration and qualified health care professionals. The FDA affirms that the vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S. have met all the safety and efficacy standards required for such authorization.

Where can I find more information on this topic?

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research)
National Catholic Bioethics Center (www.ncbcenter.org)
Charlotte Lozier Institute (www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics)

ⁱ See Charlotte Lozier Institute at www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics.

ⁱⁱ Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions (*Dignitas Personae*) (2008), nos. 35-36 and “Note on the morality of using some anti-COVID-19 vaccines” (21 December 2020).

Pontifical Academy for Life, “Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses”, (9 June 2005); and Note on Italian Vaccine Issue (31 July 2017).

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html>;
<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Operation-Warp-Speed/>.

^{iv} As of the date of this document, there are no available COVID vaccine options that are completely free from a connection to abortion-derived cell lines. But there are some COVID vaccines in development that may end up free of such connection.

^v Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith “Note on the morality of using some anti-COVID-19 vaccines” (21 December 2020), no. 3.

^{vi} CDF Note no. 5.

^{vii} The USCCB Pro Life Office helps with such advocacy through the USCCB Action Center. To receive action alerts, sign up at www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research.