

St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2021



Mass Schedule

Daily Mass

Monday - Friday 8:30am

Weekend Mass

Saturday 8:30am & 5pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 12pm

Parish Information

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

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mark 1:14-15

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Nocturnal Adoration
Jennie DiFilippi
Dorothy Tweitmann
Addison Boyle
Peter Rapanaro
People of St. William's
Pamela Trela

Monday, February 22, 2021

John Williamson

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Patrick Butler

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

James Rooney

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Nicole Tedeschi
Anna Maniscalco
Sandra Valdez-Reilly (liv)
Richard E. Ford

Friday, February 26, 2021

Richard Ploreck

Saturday, February 27, 2021

Purgatorial Society
Ann Ahearn

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.

The Sanctuary Candles used at mass this week
were donated in honor of

Sandra Valdez-Reilly.

Emergency

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

Pray for the Sick

Kathleen Finneran

Geralyn Serewko

Pray for the Deceased

John J. Drazka

Robert T. Hogan

Maria Dimarco

Chuck Madden

Eleanor Pisano

The Mass Intentions are celebrated each day by a member of the Clergy, in either a public Mass or private Mass. Please be advised the current Mass schedule may not allow the family to be present for all Mass Intentions celebrated.

Lent 2021 - Week 1 - WOW Wednesday

Thank you. I begin with simple gratitude for your witness of faith this past week. Ash Wednesday was a time for all of us to reset our spiritual compass and return to the Lord with humility, prayer, and penance. The overwhelming flow of the faithful into St. William the Abbot church for not only ashes but personal prayer, quiet, confession, and family time, was so powerful. In a year that has caused a strain upon our hearts, and if we were, to be honest, a strain on our relationship with God - Lent 2021 begins with an expression of hope and a reminder that not only do we need God but that God is here for us.

We begin with a recognition that the Lord is still reaching out to us, calling us to 'come back to Him'. This Lenten season is a time to listen, and the scriptures this weekend encourage that: "Now is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." We are being called into action, similar to Jesus being driven into the desert; we will experience temptation and then go on a mission to preach the Good News. But even before that, the first action is simply to be aware of God. God is pursuing us; he is present to us, and being in the presence of holiness, allows us to rejoice in awe and wonder of His mercy and love. Regardless of where we are at in the spiritual journey - or even the recognition of our own sinfulness. The Lord not only looks upon us with love, but he's moving toward us and walks with us. So often, we feel this need to completely "clean the house" of our soul as if we are supposed to be perfect before we begin to walk with God. We attempt to tidy up every aspect of our lives up. But life is messy, and life keeps moving, and God moves with us too.

I think of friends of mine who have tried (and continue to try) to play out the scenarios of life; they say to me, "I'll be able to do that when I... Pay off my college loans, or pay the mortgage, or get that car payment under control"; or "Sure we want to children, but we have to build and paint the nursery before we have kids, we just want to make everything 'perfect and beautiful and ordered'. Well, then reality hits, or a Global Pandemic, and we realize that the Scriptures this weekend are a subtle reminder - the Lord is calling us to respond now, now is the time, not when we get our life perfectly in order.

As Catholics, the Church has always provided ways for us to meet Jesus - especially to allow for an encounter of mercy - me that happens through the sacraments. Those of us who are wounded - we, of course, go to the sacraments of healing. Confession is one of them; there is great humility in coming to the Lord, to the mercy seat in this beautiful moment of grace. The gospel communicates to us the power of God's goodness and love, but in order for us to fully experience that, we must open our hearts to the fountain of grace. We must listen to the promptings of our hearts that bring us back to the Loving Father. We're also familiar with the story of the prodigal son when the young man realized he was starving for more than just food, shelter, or something to drink; he was starving for the affection and love of his father. What is interesting is that he had forgotten who he was and was prompted to go back home. We are told in the Scriptures that each day the father went to the end of the property and looked with eyes of hope for the return of his son. He does the same for us.

The Evil One usually interjects his thoughts to distract us or dissuade us from going to God the Merciful Father. We hear things like: "It's been so long, or what happens if you forget something or even how to go to confession, or God won't forgive that." Those are lies that come from the 'father of lies'. Rebuke them and grow courage in the Lord. God is calling you to encounter His tender heart, for us to come in this season of Lent, and this time of renewal and transformation, we have to ask the questions: Lord, where are you working on me? Where are the parts of my heart or my life that need your healing? Calm your heart, and know that God will guide and direct you to those wounded places that He desires to heal. Then, my sisters and brothers, we should run to that place of mercy; that's not "just a confessional box," but it's the seat of mercy where we meet and encounter the love of God.

Ash Wednesday was a springboard and start of motivation; now that we have officially begun the journey of Lent into the desert, there are fewer distractions, less noises that can prevent us from hearing God speak. Stay focused and be patient with yourselves - you may have one or many stumbles these 40 days, but the Lord is not looking for perfection. He is just looking for you! So now we must do our part, and that is simply to listen, to sit with a posture of receptivity, and to receive the grace that the Lord desires to offer.

Thank you for your presence and generosity.

Peace,



Stump the Priest

STUMP THE PRIEST !



Why do priests wear purple vestments during advent and lent?

Advent and lent are seasons of penance. The color purple (or violet as described by the Church) in ancient times was connected to royalty – the emperor and kings would wear this color as a sign of their status. When Jesus was undergoing his Passion and death, the soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head and a purple cloth around Him to mock Him in his Kingship (Mark 15:17). Purple thus became associated with Jesus' Passion and death. Overtime, the symbolism of violet has been associated with repentance from sin. Violet carries with it the idea of sorrow for the times we have turned away from God. This is why the priest will wear a violet stole while hearing confessions. It should be noted that the priest could also wear violet while celebrating a funeral mass as a sign of mourning and the need for the living to offer prayers and acts of penance for the departed soul. The color violet during the seasons of advent and lent should make us think of Christ's passion, our need for penance, and the Kingship of Jesus – Christ the King of the Universe!



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

USMC -

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

US Air Force -

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

US Coast Guard -

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

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

Faith Formation

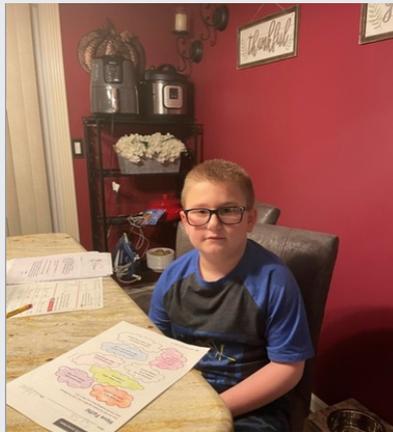
Lent has begun. Perhaps you gave something up you like to eat, or you gave up something you like to do a lot. Lent does not mean you must give something up. You can refrain from overindulging in something, but you can also help in many ways. Almsgiving is a way you can help people in your own neighborhood who may need that extra help to get through difficult times, especially with this pandemic of Covid19. Maybe you can volunteer at a soup kitchen or help out in Social Ministry or lend a hand to your neighbor during Lent. Think about a habit that has kept you from being whom God is calling you to be. Consciously give up that habit for Lent. If you can, go to daily Mass or even read daily reflections. There is so much you can do so that you can make changes in your life to become a better person not only for yourself, but with others and become closer to God.

The Faith Formation Parents have been notified regarding Confirmation. It will take place on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at St. William the Abbot Church. Due to this pandemic, it will only be the Confirmandi, Sponsor and the Parents. Also, an email went to our Second Grade Parents to sign up for Reconciliation. Please sign up for the date and time that will work for you and your children.

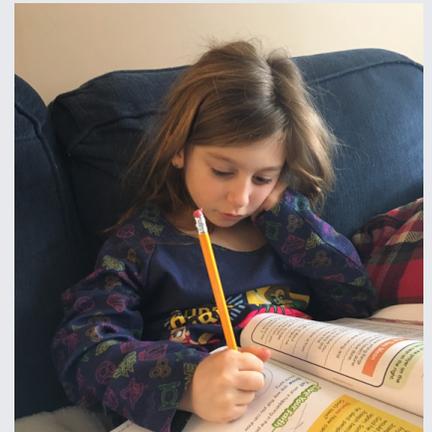
Here are some pictures of our Faith Formation Students working diligently.



Michael Tucci



Jack Zols



Concetta Greco

St. William the Abbot Community

The Seaford/Wantagh Girl Scout 12th grade Ambassador Troop #3038, Madeline, Mary, Emily, Amanda, Julia, Julianne, Emily, and Elizabeth donated 20 Valentine's Day gift bags for children to our Social Ministry office.



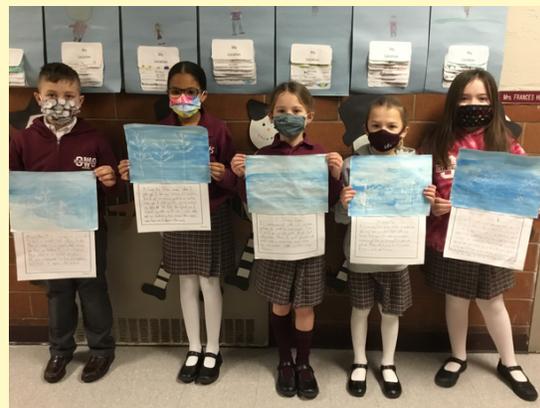
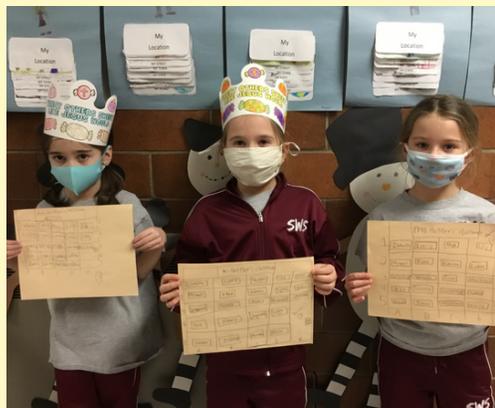
St. William the Abbot School

Class 2-2 is very busy! In Religion we are learning that God always loves us and is willing to forgive us. This is the beginning of our preparation for Reconciliation.

In Social Studies we are learning about the different types of locations and reading maps. The children made a Map Grid of our classroom. The children took turns giving the location of a classmate using the coordinates on the Map Grid.

In ELA the children wrote about a Snowy Day. Each child then made a special watercolor picture to attach to their writing. Also, we participated in the program, "P.S. I love you." The children wrote a message to a fellow classmate describing how wonderful they are.

Every day there is something new to learn in second grade!



#WEARESTWILLIAMS

Ms. Alaimo's Pre-K Class is ready to spread the love for Valentine's Day! The students painted a canvas with a paper towel and mounted hearts to pretend they were blowing kisses. The students will give this as a special gift to their families!



Lent Schedule

Finding Time for God in a Pandemic *Lenten Mission*

Church – 7:00 PM

The Lenten Mission will be live-streamed on the parish website stwilliam.org

Tuesday, March 2 – Msgr. Charles Fink - *Spiritual Warfare*



Tuesday, March 9 – Fr. Lachlan Cameron - *The Tender Heart of the Father*



Tuesday, March 16 - Mass with Fr .Pierre Toussaint, CFR
'Take up your mat and walk.' - John 5:11



Monday of Mercy

Monday of Mercy (Confession)
Church – 7:00 – 8:00 PM

February 22 – for the parish

March 1 – Faith Formation Gr. 2 only

March 8 – Faith Formation Gr. 2 only

March 15 – for the parish

March 22 – for the parish



Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be live-streamed on the parish website stwilliam.org, Facebook account, and Instagram TV on

Friday, February 19 and 26

Friday, March 5, 12, and 19
at 4pm.

Rectory News

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

New Rectory Office Hours

The Rectory will be open
Monday through Friday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

If you need to come to the Rectory, please be aware that visitors will only be permitted in the Rectory Vestibule. Anyone entering the rectory must always wear a mask. To maintain social distancing, only one person will be admitted at a time. If someone is already in the vestibule you are asked to wait outside until they leave. Please ring the doorbell before you enter. You can also email any requests to information@stwilliam.org.

Little Black Books



The Little Black Book's containing prayers and reflections for Lent are available at the doors of the church. We ask that each family take only one copy.

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.

Safety

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.

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.**



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

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.

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.



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.



Saint David

Saint David was a bishop.

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

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



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

Catholic Kids Bulletin

February 21, 2021
Lent
Color: Purple

PWLYOURPWAYSPWOLORDP

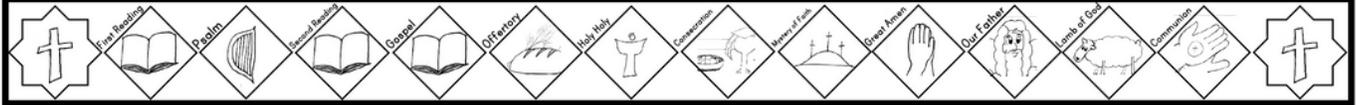
BPYOURPCOVENANT

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

PAREOLOVEPANDPTIU

PTRUTHPTOPTHOSEPWHPKEEPPO

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



Gospel

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

Parish Social Ministry

Respect Life – Birthright Pregnant? Need Help?

24 Hour Hotline – 1-800-550-4900

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, The unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God’s creation And deserving of the utmost reverence and respect”.

- Pope Francis’ Day of Life Greeting

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

9:00am - 12:00pm

Food Pantry

PANCAKE MIX

SYRUP

DETERGENT

SHAMPOO

JUICE BOXES

CANNED GREEN BEANS

CANNED FRUIT

MAC & CHEESE

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 MUSIC MINISTRY

Please send your email to mgeorgetti@stwilliam.org.

CONTACT THE SCHOOL

St. William the Abbot School



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

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.

HEAP Benefits –

Home Energy Assistance Program

is available to help with home heating in the winter months for income eligible homeowners or renters. An example of the HEAP monthly income level for a family of two is \$3,413 and for a family of four is \$5,019. Additionally, HEAP offers heating equipment repair and/or replacement benefit for homeowners with inoperable heating equipment. HEAP may help you pay for oil, electricity, propane, natural gas, wood, kerosene, coal or any other heating fuel. For further information, please contact HEAP 516-4327, for seniors 516-227-7386 or www.mybenefits.ny.gov or Rosemary at Parish Social Ministry 679-8532

Walkers & Rollators

If you or a family member are in need of a walker or rollator please call Parish Social Ministry 679-8532 to arrange for you to pick up or we can also deliver. We also have shower chairs and sometimes we have wheelchairs.



Reconciliation

Reconciliation will be held in the Church
Monday through Saturday 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
and on Saturday from 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM.



Personal Prayer

In order to allow for quiet, personal prayer time, the Church will remain open
until 12:00 N Monday through Friday as of Thursday, October 1, 2020.
This will be suspended on days when we have scheduled Funeral Masses.



Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration will be held from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
every day, Monday through Saturday.



Rosary

The Rosary prayer time will be held
Monday - Saturday after the 8:30 AM Mass.



Miraculous Medal

Novena Devotions will be held on Saturday's at 8:15 AM.



St. Peregrine

St. Peregrine a prayer group for cancer victims, families, and their care givers.
The Peregrine Hour of Prayer is held on the
first Monday of each month from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM.



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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