

St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
January 17, 2021



"Behold, the Lamb of God." - John 1:36

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

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 18, 2021

Paul Lundwell

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Edwin Boden

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Donna Conry

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Theresa Gilmartin

Friday, January 22, 2021

James J. Molner

Saturday, January 23, 2021

Purgatorial Society

Joyce Sackman

Patrick T. Kearney

John Begley

John & Mary Marinello

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Paul Bonanno

Peter T. Pirone

People of St. William's

Msgr. William Varvaro

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.

New Rectory Office Hours

Beginning Tuesday, January 19 the Rectory will have new hours. The Rectory will be open **Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 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.

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

Banns of Marriage II

Christopher Bonetti

SWA

&

Hira Saeed

St. Patricks RC Church, Huddersfield, UK

The Altar and Sanctuary Candles used at mass this week were donated in loving memory of

Dante Mongiardo.

The bread and wine used at mass this week were donated in loving memory of

Edwin Boden

from friends of Ed Boden.

Pray for the Deceased

Helen M. Sheehy

Anthony Battaglia

Peter Budniak

Pray for the Sick

Richard Ford

Dominick Gudice

Patricia Swedenberg

Anything but Ordinary Time - Here I Am Lord

Ordinary Time is a liturgical season in the Catholic Church that allows for a more regular, familiar rhythm, with not too many high or low Feast Days or celebrations. Certain seasons, or times of the year call for fasting or feasting. Times like Lent, Advent, Easter, Christmas, the Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day, or our own Feast Day, St. William's Day. Rightly so, we celebrate them by 'amping' up with joyful music, flowers and decorating, or we pull back and strip down the environment of the church and our own bodies, especially during Lent.

Recently I have heard people say, I can't wait to go back to "normal," let's go back to the way things used to be. My friends I would ask you to look at that desire from a very different lens, meaning not just yours and my eyes, but on the whole parish level, even the whole diocesan level of Rockville Center. Look at these trends:

Baptisms

1980	2000	2020
232	283	107

Communions

1980	2000	2020
222	239	184

Confirmations

1980	2000	2020
315	218	207

Marriages

1980	2000	2020
140	90	30

There is no doubt that the Corona Virus has caused some families to discern their physical presence on the parish campus, especially at the Sacraments, (Mass, Baptisms, Communions). I ask you to look at your own life, and family. Perhaps you were involved in many ministries Pre-COVID, or you as a family come to Mass or watch each week. But we only need to look at pre-pandemic times to see a trend that is quite normal and ordinary in many families in our parish. Disengagement/ Disconnecting. Believe it or not, we celebrated 30 COVID weddings this year, but when I arrived as Pastor, there were only 27 originally scheduled for 2020. This week, the Bulletin is filled with many graphs, charts, and statistics for us to read over as a parish, our finances, attendance, and sacramental celebrations. The results are mixed, some favorable to growth in the parish, and others a bit concerning. But remember, we are a People, and a Parish of Hope!

The Mission of Jesus does not change – it is to go and MAKE Disciples!!! Not to make more clubs, committees, and organizations. But that can only happen when we slow down and make a little room, and time for God. We know that an "active disciple" is someone who attends Mass on Sundays, the Holy Days, and is committed to stewardship, offering our time, talent, and blessings to the parish and those that we serve. That is and has always been the bedrock of St. William the Abbot parish, that is who we are, and why I am so hopeful for what is to come.

Although some of the declining numbers can bring us concern, let us not forget we have the Good News. Jesus is on our Team! The challenge is that in some ways, the language and how we present the Good News to those who do not "ordinarily" come has changed significantly. It is like when Mass modified from Latin to English, there was a time for adjustment and understanding. I realize that for some people in our community, our Catholic Faith and involvement at St. William's is just one more thing among many that occupies their time. Going to Flag Football, piano lessons, lacrosse, karate, dance, and math tutoring, are all on the same level as an encounter with Jesus. Even the shift to screens, school, gaming, and counseling, most communication in general has moved away from "in-person." Deep down we desire to return to a simpler time, attending Mass together, gathering for breakfast at home or at the diner after Mass, saying our prayers before meals or at the bedside as a family, and even the family fun events that happen at SWA. I get that in most cases, those other non-Church activities and experiences can be more fun and presented in a "flashy" or more professional way. But our mission is not to make church "more fun or flashy." It is to enhance the experience of the sacraments, formation/education of the faithful, and outreach to the poor. That when we come here or bring Jesus to the world there is an imprint on hearts. We want that to be the "Ordinary" experience.

In my almost two years here at SWA, I certainly have seen those ordinary trends, but we as a parish are anything but ordinary. The response of these past 10 months to our Baptismal Call has been amazing – generosity of time, talent, and treasure. As we enter this new season, my hope is to discern well with our Pastoral Team and so many of you on how to expand the Gospel in this moment of our history. To be missionary, and evangelize beyond the walls of the Church, to grow in more opportunities for all the parishioners, young and old, the most active, and those who have not participated in many years, or ever. To build off the well-established/long time ministries, and to incorporate new ones that have not even been thought of yet.

I am asking for the intercession and the protection of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph, to give us the wisdom and guidance to move the parish forward – they too were an Ordinary Family, that lived their faith in an extraordinary way. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

Peace,



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

Also, we do ask that everyone arrive early so that we can everyone seated 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.**



Reconciliation

Reconciliation is offered Monday - Saturday from 7:00 am - 8:15 am and Saturday from 3:45pm - 4:45pm.

You may also schedule your time for confession by emailing priests@stwilliam.org.

Rectory News

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

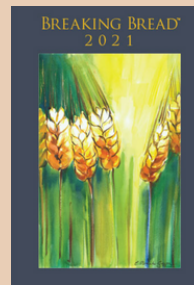
Year-End Tax Statements

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.

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.



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. **Please come to the rectory door Monday – Friday from 9am-5pm to purchase your missal.**

Stewardship as a Way of Life

From the beginning of our Catholic Faith, Jesus put forth a Spirit of Generosity in His followers, to Gather in His name, to celebrate, and to Give Thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. The community of St. William the Abbot does not just use the term Stewardship - you have lived it. Each time we offer our time, talent, and treasure to God - our lives, and the life of the parish is enhanced.

I recognize this past year has been extremely difficult with sickness, the loss of loved ones, our way of life, and regular rhythm of life. We have walked this journey together, united in faith throughout. The SWA Pastoral team and I want to personally thank you for the privilege of entrusting us with your joys and challenges, your triumphs and difficulties, and your incredible trust and faith in God.

I have attached a snapshot of our financial report from this past year. In a year when many families in our community struggled, because of your commitment to the Mission of Jesus, we were able to respond to those needs, and not only maintain our services, but to grow and expand them. Please know that your intentional offering each week has allowed the parish to thrive, to be creative and innovative and to preach and proclaim the Gospel. On behalf of all we serve, I want to thank you for that.

As we begin this new year, I would ask you to once again prayerfully discern your Stewardship and service to the parish. "Much to whom has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48). There is no doubt the Lord will be encouraging us to see how we as a parish can grow and offer new ways to serve the needy with our time, talent, and treasure. Pray well, listen, and respond to God's beckoning. Thank you, and Congratulations on an incredible year of Service to God and Others.

Peace,



St. William the Abbot Financial Report

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

Revenue	
Regular Collections (Sundays & Holydays)	\$ 1,492,679
Catholic Ministries Appeal Rebate	31,868
Fundraising (Golf Outing, Family Festival)	-
Religious Education Program	105,174
Other Parish Programs (Social Ministry, CYO, Youth, Adult Education)	101,824
Auxiliary Revenue (Wedding/Funeral Offerings, Shrines, Convent Rent, Special Donations)	365,736
Collections on Behalf of Others	53,931
TOTAL	\$ 2,151,212
Extraordinary Revenue (including Restricted Donations)	\$ 34,015
Interest on Savings & Increase in Equity	\$ 665,678

Expenditures	
Salaries	\$ 703,490
Fringe Benefits	336,684
Religious Education Program (not including salaries)	37,755
Other Parish Programs (Social Ministry, CYO, Youth, Adult Education)	150,310
Fundraising (Golf Outing, Family Festival)	2,736
Parish School Subsidy	230,000
Printing & Office	130,301
Auxiliary Expenditures (including liturgical expenses, Diocesan Assessments)	173,278
Collections on Behalf of Others	53,931
Rectory Residence	29,569
Utilities and Maintenance	314,806
TOTAL	\$ 2,162,860
Extraordinary Capital Expenditures	\$ 2,566,382

A Summary of the Sacraments Celebrated and Children Formed in Our Faith at St. William the Abbot Church

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

Baptisms	107
First Communions	184
Confirmations	207
Marriages	30
Funeral Masses and Services	144
Children in Religious Education	1,094
Catechists in Grades K through 7	86
Students in St. William the Abbot School	438
Faculty in St. William the Abbot School	Full Time: 29 Part Time: 1

Becoming Catholic - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This past weekend we welcomed faithful women and men into the Church who were baptized into a different Christian community of faith. Congratulations Matthew Miller, Joseph Dubinsky, Jose Andres Arevalo Falconu, and April Kalina. Anyone interested in becoming Catholic please e-mail Rcia@stwilliam.org



Faith Formation

Faith Formation is continuing this week with our 2nd Parent/Child session. Mrs. Walsh, Ms. Atanasio and Fr. Joe continued with their talk about Church. We are the Church. We are living stones that make up the Church. God gives each one of us a gift and wants us to share it and in doing so we build up the Church. When you look at a mosaic, a piece of colored stone, each individual stone is beautiful but looking at it when all the stones are combined, makes quite a statement of beauty.

We learned why priests wear certain color vestments at different times (green is for Ordinary Time, purple is for Lent and Advent). It was also explained why we genuflect when entering the Church. It is for humility, service and love for our Lord. We were taught that all Churches have relics beneath the altars. Relics can be teeth, bones hair or fabrics of Saints. St. William's has not 1 but 4 relics underneath our altar. They are: St. Bernadette of Lourdes, St. John Vianney, St. John Neumann and St. William the Abbot. The Saints teach us to live virtuous lives by their examples.



Mosaic



Families being shown relics



Families being shown relic



Relics underneath the altar



Fr. Joe with vestments



Fr. Joe with vestments

STUMP THE PRIEST !



If you were to walk into your home and the lights began to flicker on and off and the windows and doors began to slam open and shut – but no one was there, how would you feel? Or say you were cooking in the kitchen and a pot hanging on the shelf suddenly flew across the room, but you are the only person home – what comes to mind? If you are like me, you would be horrified because you would think there is a ghost in the house. Things do not move by themselves!

So ponder this: The universe is expanding into outer space and seems to have a starting point about 13.8 billion years ago. The Big Bang Theory describes a singular point before which time and space “lose meaning.” What caused the initial expansion? How did the universe begin to “move?” Or why did anything come into existence at all? What are the starting materials of this universe and where did they come from?

This example that I love teaching to students comes from St. Thomas Aquinas’ 5 Proofs for the Existence of God. The argument from motion, simply put, goes like this:

- Things do not move by themselves
- Therefore things that are in motion are moved by something else
- The sequence of motion cannot extend into infinity
- Therefore it is necessary to arrive at a first mover

St. Thomas’ second argument is called the argument from efficient cause and helps answer the question about why is there something rather than nothing. Simply put again, there cannot be an infinite regression of causes. There has to be a starting point that is itself the cause of all other causes – the first efficient cause.

I am obviously leaving out a number of the steps in Thomas’ arguments for the sake of space. I highly recommend the simple Google Search: Thomas Aquinas’ 5 Proofs for the Existence of God. You’ll be busy for hours!

Looking beyond Thomas’ proofs, I found the recently published book, *Steadfast in Faith: Catholicism and the Challenges of Secularism*, by David G. Bonagura, Jr. rather enlightening. Bonagura examines five ways of knowing God and showing His existence developed by the late Avery Cardinal Dulles. I recommend the book and will again quickly summarize the five ways:

1. Contingency
2. Design
3. Conscience
4. Natural restlessness of the human heart
5. Religious experience

From Contingency: or dependency – everything we encounter in our daily lives has been made by something prior. There cannot be infinite regression. Something in the chain of things has to be different – one thing has to be self-sufficient – a “Necessary Being.”

From design: or order – “Every natural object and living thing is an enormously complex entity whose component parts are so delicately ordered that they suggest a prior designer, an intelligent planner...”

From conscience: this is our inner voice that communicates the “unconditional moral imperative” to do good and to avoid evil. Contemplating this argument, we recognize some standard that goes beyond ourselves – a “higher authority” to which we are subjected.

From the restlessness of the human heart: humans have the ability to think abstractly about the past, present, and future; we have the facilities to “choose actions that run counter to our instincts.” We can thus freely choose to love, to serve, to sacrifice, and to worship and it is this ability that points us towards something outside of ourselves – thus restlessness.

From religious encounter: your faith experience is shared by millions of others – even other dominations and religions – there is credibility in YOUR EXPERIENCE! All of us gathered in faith cannot be a “mere coincidence.”

In conclusion, it is reasonable to believe in God! What we have discussed reflects metaphysical knowledge, not scientific knowledge. This pursuit of knowledge transcends scientific knowledge because it seeks the “why” of how things work, not simply the “how.” God cannot be measure under a microscope. I’ll leave you with a quote from Robert Jastrow, an American astronomer and planetary physicist:

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

— Robert Jastrow

December Gift Box Winners

12/1/20 Nicholas Libretto	12/16/20 Brody Tomczyk
12/2/20 Margaret Wolynski	12/17/20 Joe & Sue Mottolda
12/3/20 Jane & Tom Russo	12/18/20 Charles Kiefer
12/4/20 Mr. & Mrs. John Ryan	12/19/20 William & Elaine Cario
12/5/20 Rebecca Marchese	12/20/20 Jo Ann Campo
12/6/20 M. Virdone	12/21/20 John & Bernadette Devlin
12/7/20 Erin Keating	12/22/20 Linda Dimonda
12/8/20 Kristin Hettler	12/23/20 Albanese Family
12/9/20 Linds Lind	12/24/20 Eileen & Anthony Cortese
12/10/20 Natalia Rodriguez	12/25/20 Reilly Forelli
12/11/20 Giordano Family	12/26/20 Al Messina
12/12/20 Mr. & Mrs. James Molder	12/27/20 Keri Giaquinto
12/13/20 Erin Lahey	12/28/20 Elizabeth Johnson
12/14/20 Jo Ann Dondiego	12/29/20 AnneMarie Casey
12/15/20 Teresa Villani	12/30/20 Mary Reilly
	12/31/20 Kathy McAllister

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.

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.

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 THE SCHOOL

St. William the Abbot School



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

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.

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

Black Beans	Egg Noodles
Kidney Beans	Shaving Cream
Chick Peas	Conditioner
Mustard	Dish Soap

Bereavement Ministry

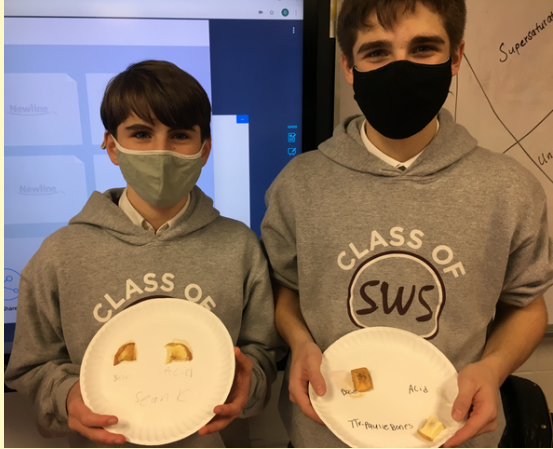
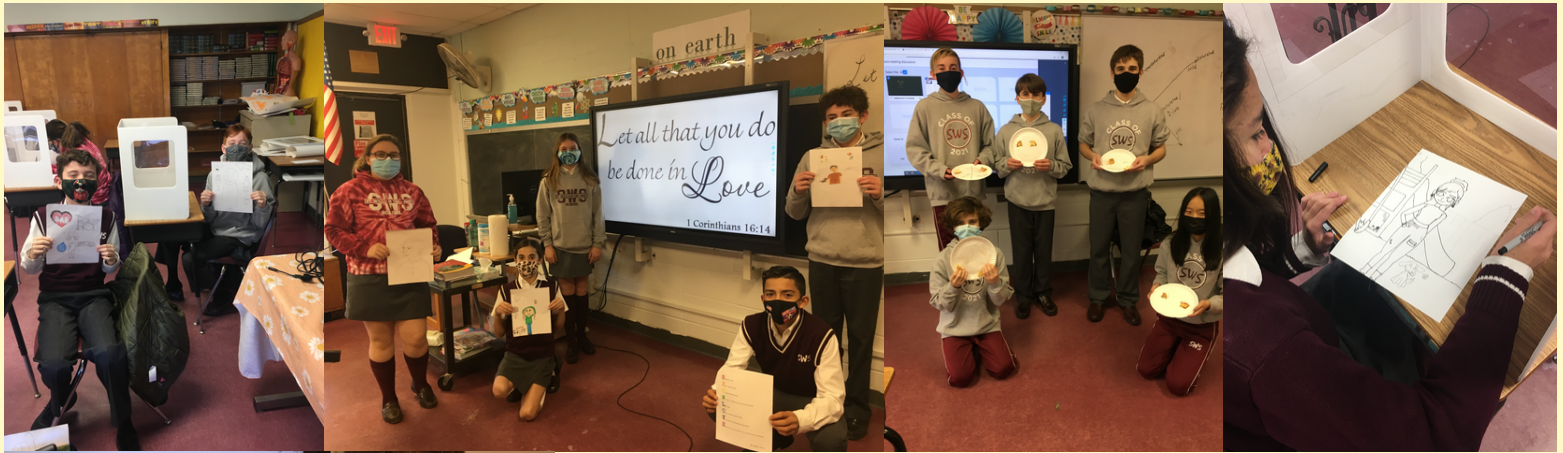
Although we cannot hold actual Bereavement Ministry sessions at this time due to the restrictions of meetings, we want you to know that we care about the grief you are experiencing, Let us help you take the walk in your grief journey. Trained facilitators are available to support you. Our mission is to help you to find peace in the midst of dealing with your loss. Please call Parish Social Ministry at (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.

Caring for the Caregiver

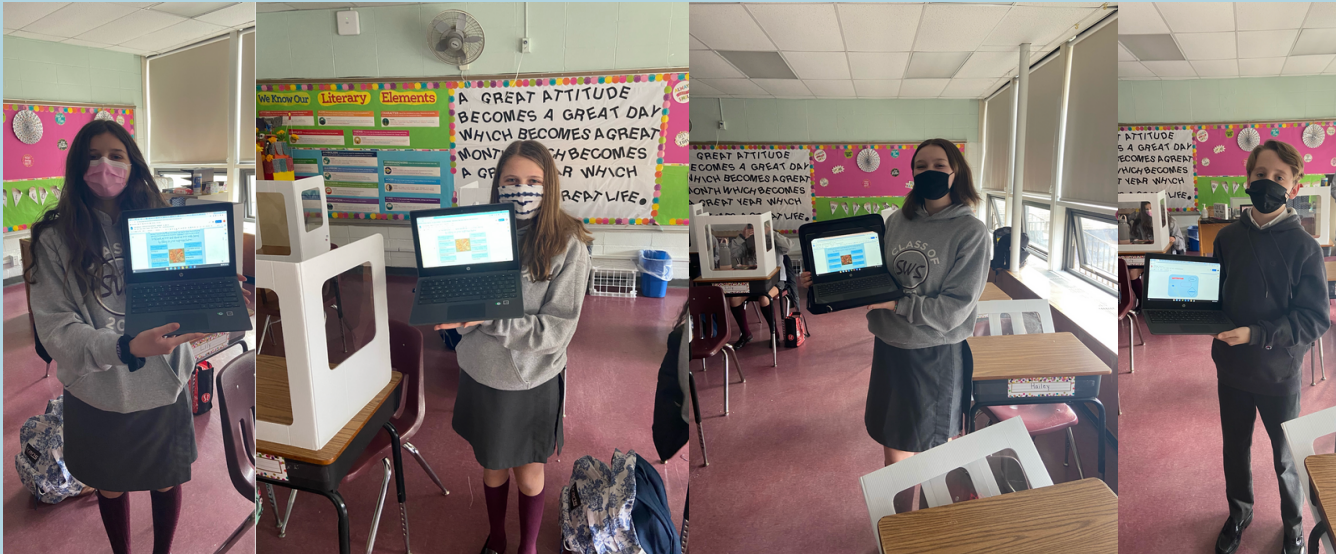
Although our program cannot currently meet we are reaching out to those who are caring for a homebound family member. You are filled with compassion for your loved one, it is not an easy situation. The time involved and the emotions you experience can be overwhelming. Particularly at this time you may 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.



This month, Homeroom 7-1 participated in the annual Catholic Daughters Contest, and got creative with their artwork and poetry under the theme "Let all you do be done with love." 7-1 also brainstormed to design their own superheroes based on the four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude. In science, 8th graders put their inference skills to the test and learned how acids and bases influence the oxidation rates of apples. This lab got a little messy, but scientific discovery made it worthwhile!



#WEARESTWILLIAMS



Happy New Year! Students in 8-1 started the new year by setting positive goals for 2021. After reflecting on their greatest achievements and hardest challenges from this past year, they focused on their hopes for the next 12 months. Each student set two goals that encompassed faith formation and personal growth. The class learned the importance of developing steps that will help them reach each goal, and chose one optimistic word to represent their resolution. They also learned the importance of making goals specific, meaningful, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. When the project was completed, students displayed their words on a virtual bulletin board where they could see every class member's post. Setting goals is a great way to learn how to be accountable for one's actions, and provide a source of motivation. 8-1 had a wonderful time spreading positivity to each other for 2021!

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

We know that Mary is Jesus' mom. Why is she called the Mother of God? The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all three persons in one God. That means that we can call Mary, "Mother of God" or "Mother of Jesus!"



KJWPEOMAYPGODPWBLESSIWAJ

BEAMERCYPWOIEJAISO

May God
bless us in
his mercy.

PEOIAJUSOEAPINTOEKA

BEWOPAHISOWPAKEMOZDIAKSE

It is still the Christmas season.
Merry Christmas!



The Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have a baby. He told her to name Him, "Jesus."
Today, we see Mary give him that name.

Follow the lines to write Jesus' name.

S E U S J



Gospel

The shepherds visited Jesus and spread the good news that our Savior had been born!



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.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2021

January 29th

St. William the Abbot Church

due to COVID-19 we will not be traveling as a parish to Washington D.C.

ADORATION: 1-3PM

TALK: 1:30PM

ROSARY: 2PM

We will be gathering in the Church for this event. If you are unable to attend in person this will be livestreamed on the parish website.

Join as a parish family to pray for the Sanctity of Life in solidarity with those marching at our Nation's Capitol. Let us pray for the unborn, their parents, families, our communities, our nation, and our leaders.



stwilliam.org

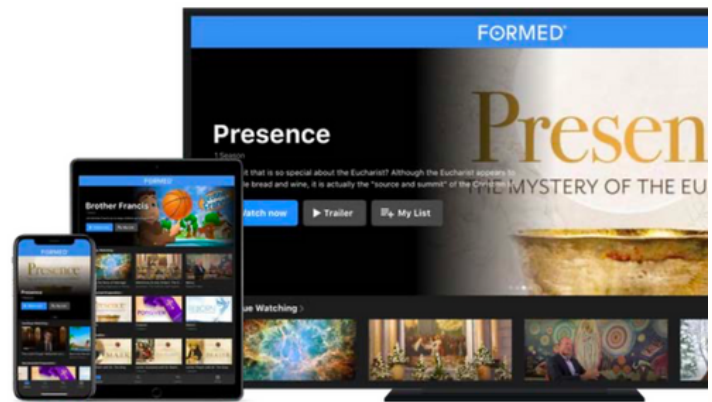
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