



# St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee... From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
Matthew 4:12, 17

## January 25, 2026 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Weekly Schedule

#### Daily Mass

Monday – Saturday: 8:30am

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12n

#### Live-Streamed Masses

Monday – Friday: 8:30am

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 12n

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday – Saturday: 7:15am – 8:20am

Saturday: 3:45pm – 4:50pm

#### Adoration

Monday – Saturday: 7:15am – 8:20am

First Friday of the Month: 9am – 5pm

#### Private Prayer

Monday – Friday: 7:15am – 6pm

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, January 25th

7:30am: Carmelo & Concetta Sgroi

9am: Peter F. Montalbano

10:30am: People of St. William's, Kerrie Ostrosky,

Msgr. William Varvaro, Kenneth Horseford

12n: Francesca & Giovanni Rutigliano

#### Monday, January 26th

8:30am: Mark Brennan & Diane Platz

#### Tuesday, January 27th

8:30am: Ursuline Sisters Prayer Card Enrollment

Intentions

#### Wednesday, January 28th

8:30am: Carmela Gauci Roumpas

#### Thursday, January 29th

8:30am: John Laddomada, Joseph M. Valentino,  
Joel Alford Quashie, Martin Murphy

#### Friday, January 30th

8:30am: Sr. Elaine Callahan, O.P., Antonia Bova,  
James Bresnahan, Roy Ellis

#### Saturday, January 31st

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: Susanne Boden

### Pray for the Sick

Livia Murray - Christian Joseph Cisternas - Richard Fedyk - Rosemary Averill - Barbara Geraghty  
Charlie Herbert - Frances Speidell - Thomas Stolfi - Paul Cameron

### Pray for the Deceased

Sue Bellotti - Elizabeth "Betsy" Boyle - John Joseph Flood

#### The Wine and Hosts

have been donated in loving memory of  
Peter F. Montalbano  
from Eileen Montalbano

#### The Altar Flowers

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

## *How to Enter the Kingdom of God*

By the time you read this letter I will likely be flying home from my 8-day silent retreat both refreshed and renewed and we will also have begun Catholic Schools Week for our parish and across the country. It is a perfect time to look at our faith journey from a new perspective. Even the scriptures call for us to look and live in a new way because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. I want to thank you all - and all those who helped hold down the parish - so I could have that time to recharge. It was incredibly fruitful.

I also humbly invite you take a look at our parish school this weekend. St. William the Abbot School has been in existence for over 70 years, teaching and guiding our young disciples (and their families) a little closer to the Kingdom. It is one of the strongest Catholic elementary and middle schools in Northeast, and with our dedicated, faith-filled administration, faculty, and curriculum, I would put it against any primary and middle school on Long Island. Our students are prepared well to enter the next stages in learning – equipped to share their God given talents and excel as they enter into the Catholic high schools and beyond. They are given the tools to succeed in life; academically, athletically, artistically, and as young apostles. We have two Open House opportunities coming up - this weekend after the 12<sup>n</sup> Mass and on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Come and see!

As we kick off the Third Week of Ordinary Time, we find ourselves at a turning point in the Gospel story. St. Matthew tells us that after the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus begins His public ministry with those powerful and urgent words: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” There is an intensity that Jesus must move into action and ministry with the news of John in prison. The Lord reveals a new hope as He steps forward to proclaim that the Father is nearby. It is a good reminder that even when something holy and good seems to be taken away, God is already at work unfolding something new, and beautiful, and good.

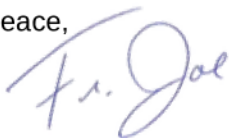
Jesus' cousin John was the main voice up to that point, a strong message coming from the wilderness, I often think about the fear and grief that filled the hearts of the Baptist's disciples when he died. John was their teacher, their prophet, their courageous voice in a broken and confused world. He had spoken truth to the powerful, even daring to confront the leaders of the time for their immoral and unlawful behavior. John was bold and courageous – a model for all of us in this disturbing and confusing time. His life had never been about protecting himself; it was always about preparing the way for another - for Jesus. As modern-day prophets we are called to do the same, to point at Jesus and to always speak the truth!

Standing against the loud voices of culture is not easy, and from a human point of view, John the Baptist's imprisonment and eventual martyrdom appears to be a tragic defeat. But from God's eternal perspective, it was John's greatest act of discipleship. By standing firm in truth, even at the cost of his life, John pointed beyond himself to the One who is Truth. His courage reminds us that faith is not only something we profess when it is convenient and easy, but something we live when it is costly. His sacrifice planted seeds of faith that continue to bear fruit in the Church to this very day.

As we begin these ordinary weeks of the Church year, there is nothing ordinary about the call placed before us as baptized Catholics. Jesus invites us to repent - to turn our hearts again toward God and trust His greater plan. Many of us have experienced our own struggles, disappointments, fears, and sinful setbacks in the recent past. The effort to be a faithful disciple becomes more challenging with the increase of outside noise and confusing voices from places like the media and our own social media. Today becomes a time to begin anew, let us ask God for the courage to remain faithful, confident that when we surrender ourselves to Him, we will always draw nearer to the Kingdom.

Have a great week!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr. Joe", written in a cursive style.



## **Baptisms**

Please welcome the following children who were baptized this past weekend:

Alexandra Ferrulli  
James Koenig

## **Pillar of Service**

In today's Gospel, Jesus' mission begins. Jesus begins His mission by calling others to repentance. Jesus says that to us right now as well. What area in your life needs improvement? What sins in your life do you need to be forgiven and freed from? How can you be of service to others?

## **Year-End Tax Statement**

Please note that year-end tax statements for your taxes will not be automatically mailed out. They may be obtained by request from the Rectory.

Please call 516-785-1266 or email  
[information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org)

## **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 pyx. Please sit in the south transept.

## **Pray for Those in the Military**

Lt. Ian Bayer (USN) - Lt. Rebecca Bayer (USN) - Lt. Ryan Bayer (USN) - Sgt. Craig Bianco (USA) - PFC Jake Cilento (USA) - PFC Ryan Daly (USMC) - Lt. Col. Michael DiPietro (USA) - LCpl Daniel Dugan (USMC) - Capt. Dana Duggan (USMC) - Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald (USN) - Capt. Michael Fitzgerald (USA) - Capt. Christopher J. Frasse (USA) - Capt. Matthew B. Frasse (USAF) - Lt. Col. John Kallo (USA) - STSC (SS) Thomas Kerley (USN) - CW2 Brian Kirby (USA) - Lt. Commander James Knudsen (USCG) - Capt. Caitlin Lee (USA) - Lt. Col Logan Lee (USA) - Major Philip Lettieri, MD (USA) - Lt. Cpl. Kevin Marshall (USMC) - Major Eamon G. McArdle (USA) - Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers (USAF) - Pvt. Juliana Miller (USA) - Col. Sean Morrow (USA) - Lt. Michael Napolitano (USN) - Lt. Michael O'Hara (USN) - MMN2 Emily Partridge (USN) - Spc. Brian Reip (USA) - Sgt. Donald Rogers (USA) - Airman Carlos Rosado (USAF) - Lt. Col. Thomas F. Shields (USAF) - Lt. Col. Michelle Simpson (USAF) - Commander Michael S. Slatley (USN) - SR Ella Tietz (USCG) - Daniel Timpanaro (USCG) - Lt. Col. Christopher J. Ustler (USA) - Cdr. Katherine Ustler-Lodispoto (USCG) - Michael Vietri (USN) - 2nd Lt. John Whidden (USMC) - Lt. Joseph Yahner (USA) - Pvt. Philip Zanardi (USAR)

## **Congratulations!**

To schedule a Baptism or Wedding, we invite you to visit [www.stwilliam.org/sacraments](http://www.stwilliam.org/sacraments) where you can find answers to some questions you may have along with an intake form.

Once we receive the completed online form, someone from the Rectory will reach out to you to discuss scheduling options.



*Scheduling A  
Baptism or  
Wedding  
at  
St. William's*





# Discover St. William the Abbot



## OPEN HOUSE

**12PM: Mass**

**1PM - 3PM: Open House**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

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

### TEACHING AS CHRIST DID

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



2001 Jackson Avenue Seafood, NY 11783

[stwilliamtheabbot.net](http://stwilliamtheabbot.net) | 516-785-6784





DIocese of Rockville Centre  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 25–31, 2026

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I give thanks for the extraordinary gift of Catholic education and for the students, families, educators, clergy, and benefactors who make our schools thrive across Long Island.**

**This year's observance begins on *Word of God Sunday*, reminding us that Sacred Scripture is not merely studied, but proclaimed, prayed, and lived. In our Catholic schools, the Word of God forms minds and hearts and draws students into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

**Our Catholic schools remain steadfast in four essential commitments. First, to be *robustly Catholic*, rooted in daily prayer, the sacraments, and fidelity to the teachings of the Church. Under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John Henry Newman, co-patrons of Catholic education, we affirm that faith and reason are not rivals but companions, leading the mind to truth and the heart to God.**

**Second, to be *academically excellent*, forming the whole person. Guided by St. Thomas Aquinas's love for truth and inspired by St. John Henry Newman's vision of education, our schools cultivate intellectual rigor, disciplined inquiry, and thoughtful engagement with the world.**

**Third, to be *safe and supportive*, honoring the dignity of every child and fostering communities where students are known, protected, and encouraged. Finally, to be *here to stay*, strengthened through responsible stewardship and shared mission across parishes, families, and benefactors.**

**As Pope Leo XIV has reminded the Church, "*education is not an ancillary activity, but forms the very fabric of evangelization: it is the concrete way in which the Gospel becomes an educational gesture, a relationship, a culture.*"<sup>1</sup> Our schools exist so that students may discover their God-given dignity, discern their vocation, and learn to live lives of joyful witness to Jesus Christ.**

**As we conclude Catholic Schools Week with the witness of St. John Bosco, I ask you to pray for our Catholic schools, support them generously, and encourage families to consider the profound gift of a Catholic education.**

**May the Word of God continue to be a light for our homes, parishes, and schools.**

Sincerely yours in Christ,

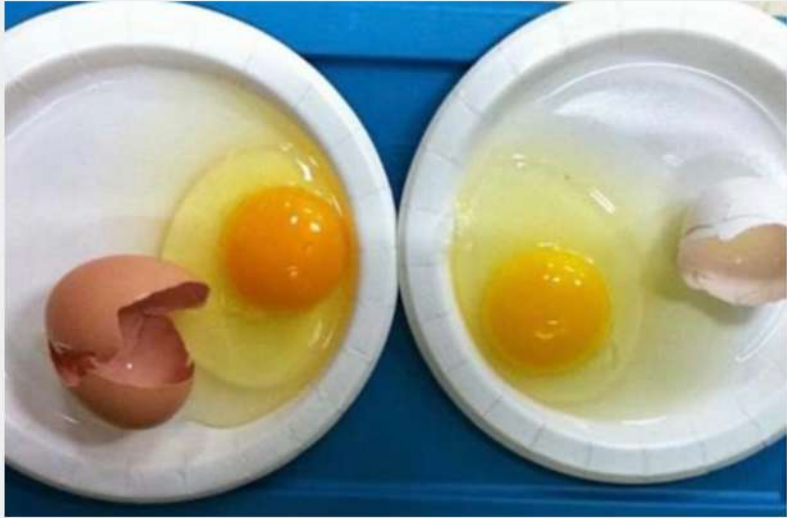
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

---

<sup>1</sup> Pope Leo XIV, *Drawing New Maps of Hope* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2025), §1.1.



SWS Kindergarteners have a dream, just like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr! Students compared a brown egg and white egg, discovering that even though we may look different on the outside, we are all the same on the inside! After their "experiment," our Kinders shared and wrote about their dreams, just like Dr. King!







Last week, the SWS 3rd Grade Scientists are using cereal boxes to create magnetic mazes. Learning “outside the box.”



## NEW YORK POST

### “High Praise”

St. William the Abbot Catholic School in Seaford, LI, serves nursery school through eighth grade, putting uncompromising academics and “intentional faith formation” at the forefront.

Principal Elizabeth Bricker said the focal point of the school is its Catholic identity, with “faith woven into the fabric of the school.” Students additionally attend weekly Mass and participate in Adoration.

Enrichment programs for students range from drama club and rosary club to American sign language, chess and coding. Another thing prospective parents may be pleased to know: The school has implemented Techless Tuesdays, providing students “the opportunity to put away the screens and interact in authentic learning,” said Bricker.

gram, which now encompasses 14% of the upper school student body. “These courses, many of

Salle Academy in the East Village, an all-boys high school, offers college prepara-

York across the

St. William the Abbot Catholic School features a rosary club.



Wed, Jan 21, 2026



## Our Catholic Community on Long Island



Join The Memorare Columbiette Auxiliary  
for Valentine Bingo!

Wednesday January 28th | Doors @ 6pm, Games @ 7pm  
Memorare Knights of Columbus - Jackson Ave., Seaford

\$35 per person

includes 8 games of bingo, wine, soda, snacks, coffee and  
dessert (snacks from home are always welcome).

50/50, lotto board, raffles and additional bingo cards are  
available for purchase. For more information or to purchase  
tickets, please contact Patricia Fernando (516) 785-3476

A portion of the night's proceeds will be donated to St. William's!

*One donation can save 3 lives!*

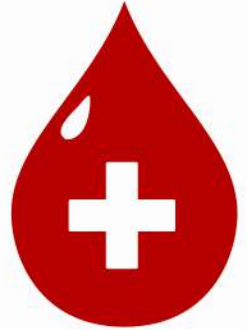
### BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, February 2nd  
1pm-7pm

Memorare Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall



Scan the QR code or call  
1-800-923-BLOOD  
for an appointment



*HEC is a community for adults with physical,  
mental, cognitive, and/or sensory disabilities to  
get to know our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

This ministry is currently looking for adult volunteers (21+) to  
help plan and volunteer their service at the upcoming HEC  
Retreat in April.

Please join any of our upcoming planning meetings:

Mon Feb 2 - 7pm - St. Francis of Assisi (Greenlawn)

Wed, Mar 4 - 7pm - St. Kilian Parish Green Room  
(Farmingdale)

Mon, Mar 30 - 7pm - St. Francis of Assisi (Greenlawn)

For more information, please contact  
[heclongisland@gmail.com](mailto:heclongisland@gmail.com)

### The Diocese of Rockville Centre GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years

The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to honor those  
couples who celebrated Fifty Years of Marriage in 2026  
by inviting them to attend one of the Masses below for a special blessing.

**Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue

Celebrant: Most Reverend Robert J. Coyle

Registration Deadline: Thursday, April 9, 2026

**Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

The Cathedral of St. Agnes, Rockville Centre

Celebrant: Most Reverend Andrzej Zglejszewski

Registration Deadline: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Register online at [drcv-faith.org](http://drcv-faith.org)

ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT

## Children's Choir

We invite all parish children in Kindergarten through 8th Grade to join us in  
the Children's Choir to sing the Communion Meditation at the 10:30am Mass on  
March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Please visit [stwilliam.org/music-ministry](http://stwilliam.org/music-ministry) for rehearsal requirements and dates  
and to register your child(ren).

High School Students & Adults are invited to join our Adult Choir by visiting  
rehearsal on Thursdays from 6pm-7pm in the Choir Loft!



### ***This Weekend's Music Selections***

We invite you to participate by using the song numbers below and the missals found in the pews.

Entrance Hymn: "Gather Us In" (#320)

Offertory Hymn: "Your Words are Spirit and Life" (#511)

Communion Hymn: "We Are Many Parts" (#457)

Communion Meditation: "Goodness of God"

Recessional Hymn: "Take the Word of God with You" (#384)

Our Children's and Adult Choirs are back in session - visit [stwilliam.org/music-ministry](http://stwilliam.org/music-ministry) for more information on joining!

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:1-2*

## ***Parish Social Ministry***

### ***Pantry Needs***

This week the pantry is collecting items not covered by SNAP (food stamps) such as toiletries, laundry detergent, pet food and paper products.

### ***Spring 2026 Bereavement Registration***

If you or someone you know has experienced the loss of a loved one and would be interested in attending a small group session for support, please call the Social Ministry office. Sessions will begin in March and will be held at 11am on Wednesdays for seven weeks. Space is limited, register early! For more information about these sessions call us at 516-679-8532.

### ***Self Defense Workshop Monday, January 26th***

The Nassau County Office for the Aging will host a Self Defense Workshop presented by Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips on Monday, January 26 at 11am at West Hempstead Senior Center at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Comptroller Phillips is a sixth-degree black belt who has trained in Korean Martial Arts for 29 years. Participants will learn skills and techniques that can enhance personal safety, develop greater self-awareness and boost confidence. Reservations are required by Jan 20, call 516-481-3322 to register or for more information.

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday February 3 at 10am in the Abbey. This ministry knits and crochets lap robes, blankets, hats, scarves, and other items for the sick and needy of our community. Yarn is provided, and new members at any skill level are always welcome!



### ***Warming Centers Available***

If you are having trouble with your heat or do not have a place to stay, there are three warming centers open in Nassau County. Mitchel Field Administration Building in Uniondale offers a 24-hour Warming Center for anyone that needs to stop in and warm up. In addition, both the Wantagh Administration Building on King Road and the Cantiague Park Administration Building in Hicksville offer warming centers from 9am – 4pm daily. These local daytime warming centers provide transportation to the Uniondale location for evening service. Individuals requiring shelter overnight can call 1-866-WARMBED, the Nassau County winter homeless hotline. For more information, contact the Parish Social Ministry office.





stwilliam.org

f @stwilliamabbot

Scan here to make a one-time donation  
by Credit Card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or CashApp

Or visit  
stwilliam.org/ways-to-give



**Rev. Joseph H. Fitzgerald**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Michael Edathil**  
*Associate Pastor*

priests@stwilliam.org

#### **Deacons**

Dcn. John Lynch      Dcn. Michael Metzdorff  
Dcn. Anthony Cedrone (Retired)  
information@stwilliam.org

#### **Rectory Staff**

Judy Goldman  
*Business Manager*  
jgoldman@stwilliam.org

Sue McCormick  
*Office Manager*  
information@stwilliam.org

Kate Walsh  
*Development & Operations*  
kwalsh@stwilliam.org

#### **Office of Childhood Faith Formation**

Laura Walsh  
*Director*  
faithformation@stwilliam.org | 516-783-2528  
stwilliam.org/faith-formation

#### **Parish Social Ministry**

Allison Marro  
*Director*  
socialministry@stwilliam.org | 516-679-8532  
stwilliam.org/social-ministry

#### **Music Ministry**

Jennifer Hegmann-Palminteri  
*Director*  
information@stwilliam.org

#### **Rectory Information**

2000 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
516-785-1266

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12:30pm, 1pm - 4pm  
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 12:30pm

*If there is an emergency where someone is critically ill or injured  
and needs a priest outside of office hours, please call 516-312-7361*



#### **St. William the Abbot School**

Elizabeth Bricker      Kasey Grasso  
*Principal      Assistant Principal*

516-785-6784

stwilliamtheabbot.net

*A Legacy of Excellence for Over 70 Years - Nursery through 8th Grade*

#### **Our Seminarian**

Dcn. Herley Mendez  
*SWA Parishioner*

*Please pray for our Seminarians and all those  
discerning the priesthood and religious life*

#### **Pastoral Council**

Chris Blankley - Fred Duemig - Barbara Geraghty  
Lara Klein - Kelly Koster - Peter Tietz

#### **Finance Council**

Rita Defendini - Debra Eannel - Robert Gerhard - John Kaley\*  
Tom Kiley - Ed Lettieri\* - Michael Turturro  
\*Parish Trustee

#### **Resources**

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)  
ocia@stwilliam.org | stwilliam.org/ocia

Baptisms & Weddings at St. William the Abbot  
stwilliam.org/sacraments

Register as a St. William the Abbot Parishioner  
stwilliam.org/i-am-new

Catholic High Schools of Long Island  
chsee.org

Diocese of Rockville Centre  
drvc.org

Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand  
formed.org

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation: Financial Aid for Catholic Schools  
tomorrowshopefoundation.org

#### **The Diocese of Rockville Centre**

*Fifth Bishop of Rockville Centre*  
Most Reverend John O. Barres

*Auxiliary Bishops*  
Most Rev. Robert J. Coyle  
Most Rev. Luis Miguel Romero Fernandez, M.Id  
Most Rev. Andrzej Zglejszewski  
Most Rev. John C. Dunne (Retired)

*Bishop Emeritus*  
Most Reverend William Murphy

drvc.org