



St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

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

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 12n Mass and on Thursday, February 12th 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.

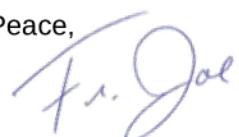
Jesus' cousin John was the main voice up to that point, a strong message coming from the wilderness, I often think about the fear and grief that filled the hearts of the Baptist's disciples when he died. John was their teacher, their prophet, their courageous voice in a broken and confused world. He 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,



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

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)

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

Congratulations!

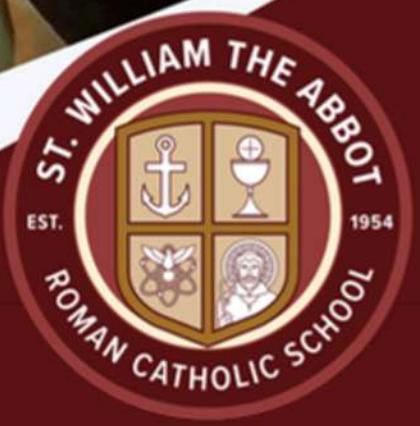
To schedule a Baptism or Wedding, we invite you to visit www.stwilliam.org/sacraments where you can find answers to some questions you may have along with an intake form.

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





Discover St. William the Abbot



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 25, 2026

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

12PM: Mass

1PM - 3PM: Open House

TEACHING AS CHRIST DID

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



2001 Jackson Avenue Seaford, NY 11783

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.

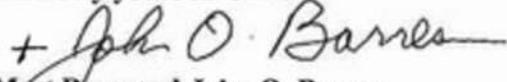
Third, to be *safe and supportive*, honoring the dignity of every child and fostering communities where students are known, protected, and encouraged. Finally, to be *here to stay*, strengthened through responsible stewardship and shared mission across parishes, families, and benefactors.

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.*"¹ 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,

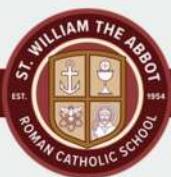

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ ¹ 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 acro

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!



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

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



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 drvc-faith.org

S T . W I L L I A M T H E A B B O T

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 8th, April 26th, and May 3rd

Please visit 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 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-WARMED, the Nassau County winter homeless hotline. For more information, contact the Parish Social Ministry office.



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

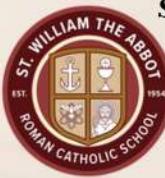
Rectory Information

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
drv.org

Formed: The Catholic Faith. On Demand
formed.org

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation: Financial Aid for Catholic Schools
tomorrowhopefoundation.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.I.D
Most Rev. Andrzej Zglejszewski
Most Rev. John C. Dunne (Retired)

Bishop Emeritus
Most Reverend William Murphy
drv.org