

St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time January 31, 2021



"What is this? A new teaching with authority.
He commands even the unclean spirits and
they obey him." - Mark 1:27

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, February 1, 2021

Donna Conry

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Jeanne Bobby

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mary Ann Litrata

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Francis Pisano

Friday, February 5, 2021

Robert P. Rao

Saturday, February 6, 2021

Purgatorial Society

Edwin Boden

William Benson

Barbara Congema

Peter G. Grennan

Sunday, February 7, 2021

People of St. William's

Martin Hartmann

Lois Gallagher

Richard Rogers

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.



The Feast of St. Blaise will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 3 at the 8:30 am Mass. In this time of the pandemic, throats will not be blessed individually. Instead, we will do a socially distanced communal Blessing of the Throats.

New Rectory Office 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.

Marriage Banns I

Alexander Kamm

&

Allison Zack

St. Thomas More, Hauppauge NY

SWA

Pray for the Deceased

Richard E. Ford

David Clive

Christopher A. Sarro

Dorothy Peters

Barbara Ann Clive

James C. Lucas

Carmella R. Salerno

Pray for the Sick

Larry Marini

Kathleen Bayer

Louis Jannotte, Jr.

Marlene Gallagher

Be Attentive to the Word of God

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” This is a familiar verse from the Scriptures, and we will hear it as the selected Psalm sung this weekend at Mass. The gift of God’s Word is offered to us each day, and especially on Sunday when we gather as a community of faith to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord here at St. William the Abbot. The Scriptures fill and sustain us as they reveal the story of our salvation through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The Heavenly Father is inviting us into a deeper relationship and desires to speak directly to our hearts, but are we aware of His prompting, His Beckoning us? We know that now more than ever the world presents so many distractions that can keep us away from connecting with one another, and with God. We have to intentionally make space to hear the Lord.

We are in this interesting time between the heightened awareness of God in our lives that comes during the Christmas season and the beginning of the Lenten season. There seems to be a natural drop-off in our attentiveness when we enter into “ordinary time.” The busyness of life gets in the way. We start to see adjustments in the activity schedule of our children and grandchildren, as well as in our own lives. We see some of the cultural high points in things like the Super Bowl, or our favorite sports teams starting to play, or the children beginning their own sports. As more people receive the COVID Vaccine, and the weather begins to improve our lives will once again be forced to jump on the treadmill of keeping up with what the world and culture think is important. It can be overwhelming – and this makes it even harder to “hear HIS voice.”

I would like to make a few suggestions that can help us individually, in our families, and as a parish in general to connect. February 17th is Ash Wednesday; you will see that that experience will be very different in the midst of a Global Pandemic 2021. But since we have a sense that things will be different, perhaps we can prepare ourselves in a new way, and especially break open the Word of God in the next few weeks, to hear God better.

A. **Dust off your family Bible** – Some of us rarely take out the “Family Bible.” It is more of an antique that sits on a coffee table as opposed to a way for the family to pray together. If you do not currently have one, you can easily go to the Advent Shop in Massapequa and they will show many options. Read it!

B. **Catholic Daily Missal** – You can purchase the Sunday Missal at the rectory or order a Daily Missal online. There are resources such as the Magnificat, The Word Among Us, Give Us This Day – both in hard copy version and online which allows you to read God’s Word every day.

C. There are countless other Apps and Daily Devotions you can subscribe to that will keep you connected to the Lord and His Word.

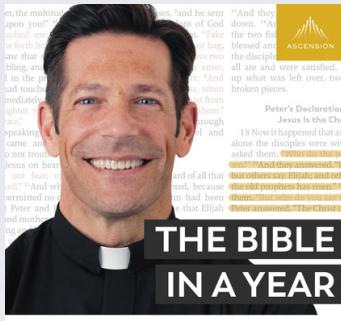
D. My strongest recommendation would be to the download the App by Ascension Press, **“The Bible in a Year: with Fr. Mike Schmitz”**. This has led to so many conversations in the rectory, and with so many of you who have been following along since January 1. It is clear, concise, flows well, and has solid explanations of even the most challenging scriptures. Each episode is a very manageable 15-20 minutes with strong catechesis that can be easily listened to during morning quiet time, your commute to work, or even while preparing a meal. My hope is to not only create intergenerational parish conversations from breaking open the Word, but hopefully developing Small Group Bible Studies in the next few weeks and months.

The past few Sundays the Scriptures have revealed how God calls different disciples to follow and serve Him - Mary, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Anna and Simeon, Jonah, Peter, James, and John. Their hearts were open, and docile, and they responded to His voice and changed the world. Now, it is our turn. The question for us is not so much if we hear His voice, but will we allow time and space for that to occur. Yes, in this extraordinary time – let’s make listening, hearing, and responding to God – ordinary!

Thank you for your presence and generosity.

Peace,



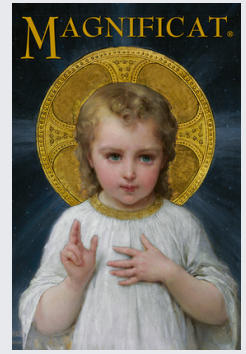


WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ, FEATURING JEFF CAVINS

ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration



www.wordonfire.org



us.magnificat.net

Feast of St. Angela Merici, The Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Mass



Purgatorial Society

Joseph Carra, Patricia Conroy, Rebecca Dela Cruz, Rose C. Cuva, Josephine Diehl, Santo M. Forlani, Celeste Gouono, John and Mary Marinello, Marcella Miller, Howard Minami, Mary E. Nacci, Lloyd Newell, Lawrence T. Paretta, Donna Richter, Louise Rozzo, John Rurney, Joseph Vallone, Thomas Phillip Smith, Ronald Cabrijan, Christine Glouster, Thomas Larkin, Pat Barbera, Barbara McShane, Angela Zottola, Joseph Ippoliti, Anne M. Bahnken.

Michael Annuziata, Katherine Buccellato, Angela Flori, Wilford Furley, Frances Giraldo, Paula Hagerman, Frank Jacono, Pilar B. Reyes, Lillian Rezoagli, Louie Rozzo, Basil "Buzz" Santini.

Billy Kelly, Thomas Fitzmaurice, Ralph J. Hunt, Dorothy Holland, Nicola Campanella, Brendan McGuire, Vincent McGuire. Mary Barraco, Donald Clark.

Helen Mayer, Carmela Artusa, Anthony Nacci, Mary Nacci, Clarice Prato.



HELP! THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP

CALLING ALL KIDS, TEENS, AND YOUNG ADULTS



JOIN FR. JOE & FR. JAMES ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 6PM - 7PM

AFTER THE 5PM MASS IN THE CHURCH FOR A CONVERSATION
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH



Must be worn at all times.
For your safety and others,
please wear your mask properly
covering your nose and mouth.



Practice social distancing.



If you are not feeling well or have been
around someone with Covid within the last
14 days. Have a cough or fever. Have been
diagnosed with Covid-19 Coronavirus.
For the health and safety of yourself and our
community, we ask that you stay home.



STWILLIAM.ORG

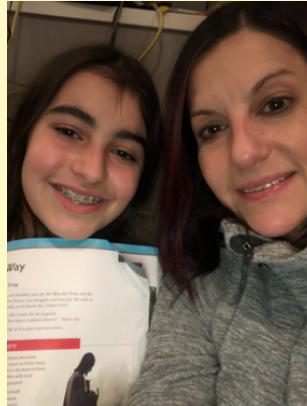
Faith Formation

Today in Church we learn "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts". It is a reminder that there are times that you may want to say or do something that is not the right thing, however at that moment it may feel good to say something to hurt someone's feelings or make the person feel bad, well it is not the correct thing to do. That is why deep down inside you get that feeling of "maybe I should not have said that or done that". It is your conscience that is reminding you that you should have handled the situation better. We all must be better individuals to one another and that is what Jesus wants from us. To hear him and be kind and caring to one another. There is so much going on in our world today so let us all try to make it better by being that example of doing better for one another.

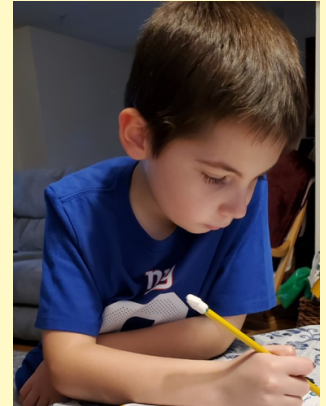
Here are some student's doing their work and learning about Jesus. They even do the work in the car while waiting for their sibling!



Sabrina LoPresti



Lauren LoPresti



Andrew Terjesen

The 8th Grade Faith Formation parents were sent a memo with an attachment of the Testimony of Designated Sponsor Form. It was emailed out on January 11, 2021. If you have not received it, you can contact the Office of Faith Formation by phone at 516-783-2528 or email faithformation@stwilliam.org, however, please check your Spam/Junk email, it could have gone into that folder. The form needs to be handed in by March 3, 2021. There is no date for Confirmation yet, and when we find out, the parents will be contacted.

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.

Memorials Available

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

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

LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

The Monday - Friday 8:30am Daily Mass and the Sunday 12pm Mass can be viewed on the parish website stwilliam.org.

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.**

Low Gluten Hosts Available at Mass

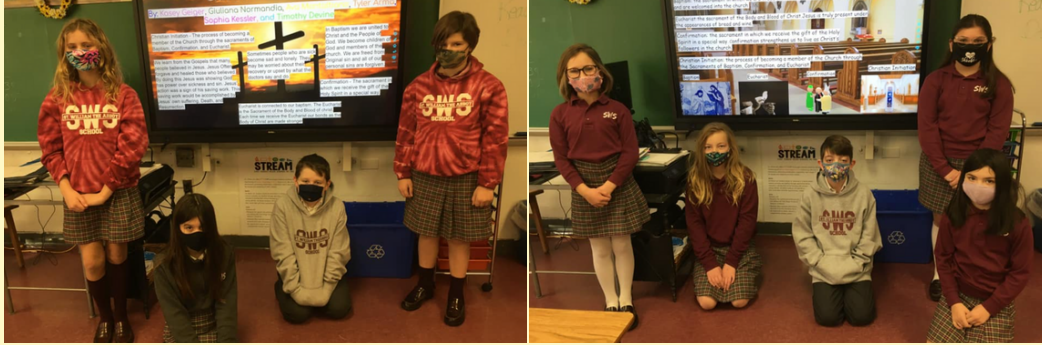
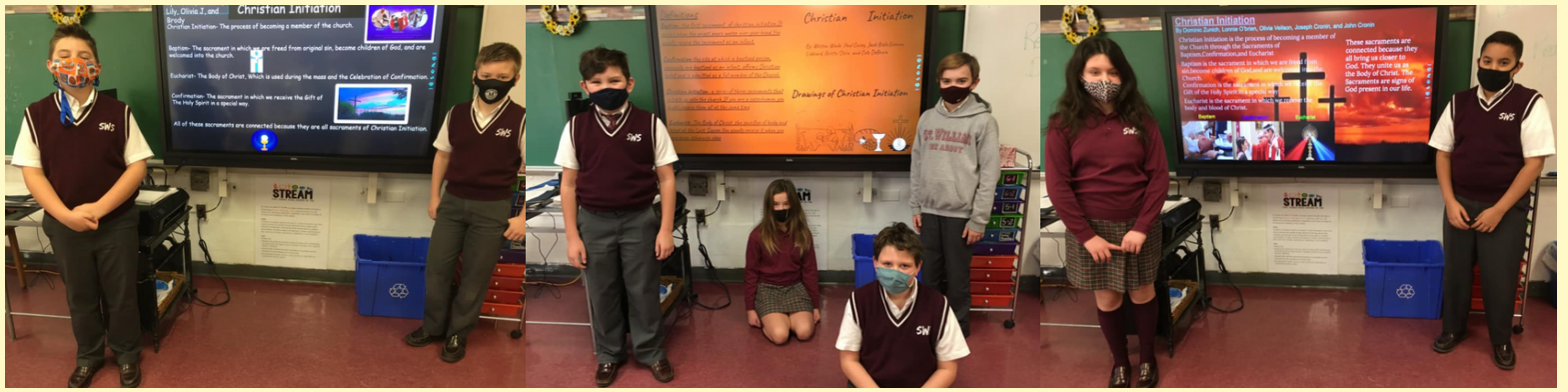
For those who must avoid gluten in their diet, the parish has low-gluten hosts available for Holy Communion. If you wish to receive such a host, please arrive prior to Mass and inform the priest and he will place your host in a oyx.

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.

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.



Fifth graders are studying the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. The sacraments are signs that Jesus gave to us to assist us on our journey on the road to eternal happiness. Baptism starts our journey, Eucharist nourishes us as we travel and Confirmation strengthens our faith through the ups and downs of life.



#WEARESTWILLIAMS



Congratulations 8th graders, on receiving your class rings. #wearestwilliams

STUMP THE PRIEST !



What happens after death; do we go straight to heaven or we wait somewhere until the end time?

Answer :

Immediately after death, what is called particular judgment takes place. This means that by a Divine Sentence of judgment, the eternal fate of the deceased person is decided. Traditional Catholic teaching holds that a particular judgment of the individual takes place at death.

The Union Councils of Lyon and of Florence declared that the souls of the just, free from all sin and punishment, are immediately assumed into Heaven, and that the souls of those who die in mortal sin descend immediately into hell.

The good receive their reward; and the evil, their punishment immediately after death.

For example in the story of the Richman and Lazarus we read that Lazarus died and was carried into the bosom of Abraham where he enjoyed a blissful life while the Richman also died and was buried being tormented in Hades. (LK 16:22-24)

However a general judgment of all the living and dead is expected to take place at the end of time when Christ the King will come again as judge to separate the sheep from the goat . (Mt. 25:31-46)

For this general judgment, there is no known day date or time. Christ Himself said he didn't know.

This means that we should all live our lives in constant readiness either for our particular judgment at the hour of our death or for the general judgment at the second coming of Christ.

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

Sgt. Robert Nesci

L.Cpl. Christopher Russell

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

US Coast Guard -

Lt. James Knudsen

Daniel Timpanaro

LT. Commander Katherine Ustler

Frank Pristera

US Air Force -

Capt. Matthew B. Frasse

Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers

AIC William Hughes

Tech. Sgt. Karl Muench

Major Thomas F. Shields

Director of Ministries



Mary Mailloux is excited to be joining the St. William the Abbot staff as the Director of Ministries. She was born and raised on Long Island. She has previously worked as a science teacher at St. Dominic's Elementary School and Sacred Heart Academy. Mary most recently was the Director of Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Mary is actively involved in parish and diocesan youth and young adult programs. She is a wife and mom of two young kids, and currently resides in Lindenhurst with her family.

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.

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-1pm to purchase your missal.**



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 MINISTRIES

Please send your email to mmailloux@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

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

CHEERIOS
BROWNIE MIX
PRETZELS
NAPKINS
CLEANING SUPPLIES

BROWN RICE
CANNED BEETS
CRACKERS
SUGAR
TACO SHELLS



Food Pantry News

As you shop for your Super Bowl Party remember to pick up a few snacks for the Food Pantry too!

**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

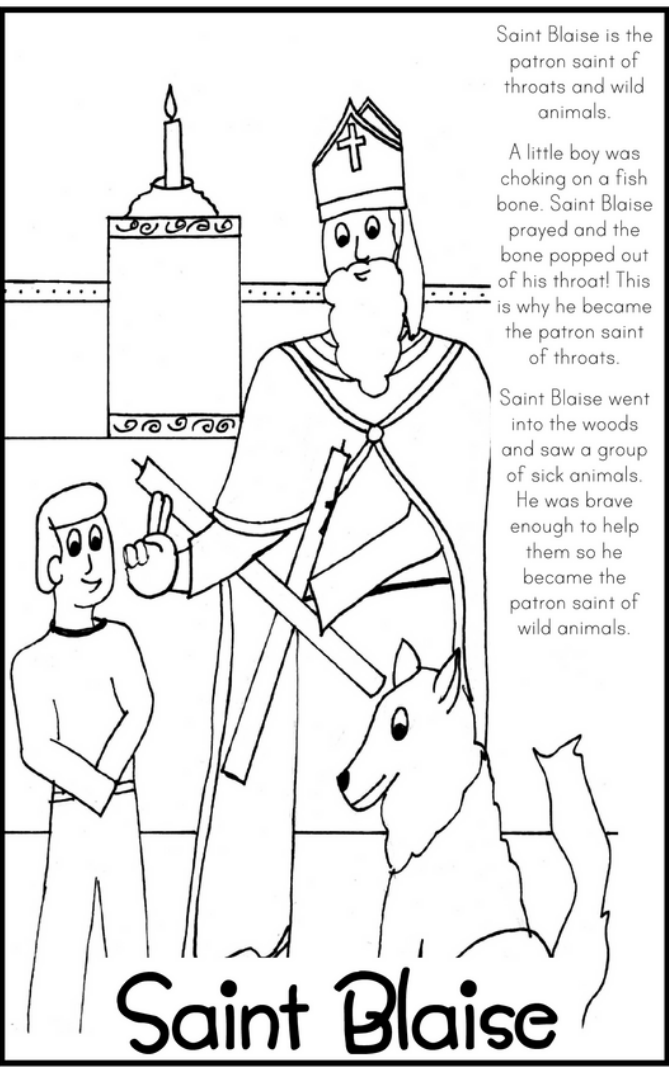
HEAP Benefits –

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

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.



Saint Blaise is the patron saint of throats and wild animals.

A little boy was choking on a fish bone. Saint Blaise prayed and the bone popped out of his throat! This is why he became the patron saint of throats.

Saint Blaise went into the woods and saw a group of sick animals. He was brave enough to help them so he became the patron saint of wild animals.

Saint Blaise

WPOEIFOTODAYWAPPYOUUPKEWL

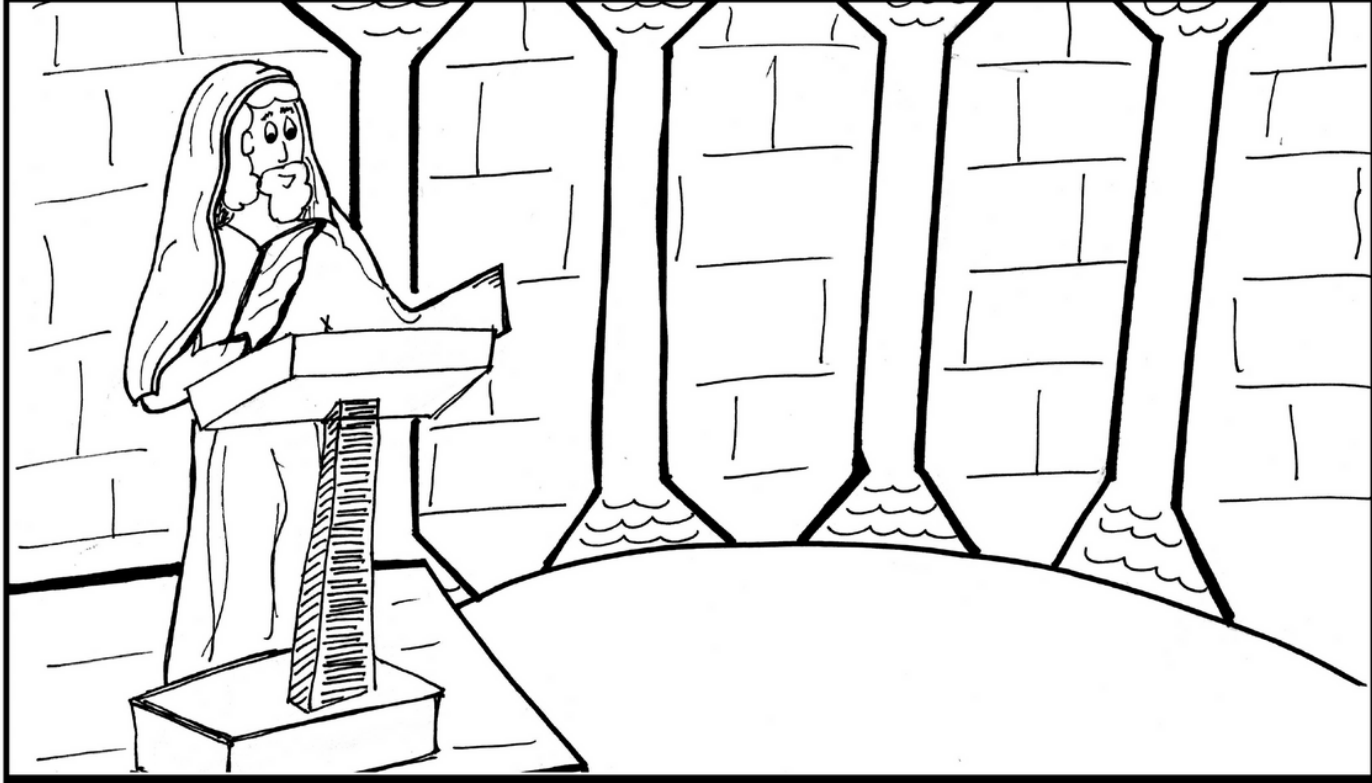
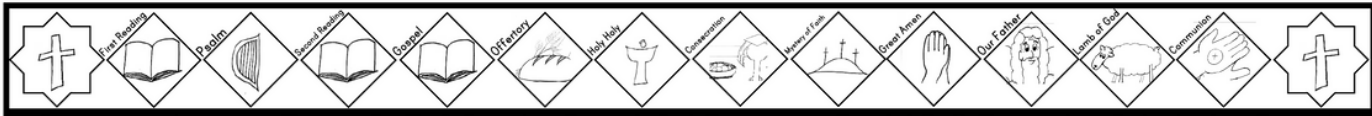
WEIWPAYHEARTSPAIEK

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

WEPAHEAROSHISPMWKO

EVOICEPAHARDENPOANOTPYOUR

There is a special Mass on February 3 to celebrate Saint Blaise. You can receive a blessing for your throat on that day.



Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. A man with an unclean spirit came in and knew the Jesus is God! Jesus told the unclean spirit to come out of the man, and it obeyed Him.



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.

Catholic Schools Week Virtual Open Houses, Jan. 31 - Feb. 6

**This year, our Open Houses
will be at *your* house.**



**Attend a virtual Open House,
and see the Catholic School difference
from the comfort and safety of home.**

Find a Catholic Elementary School near you,
at www.LICatholicElementarySchools.org.

Click on "Find A School".





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 31, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Beginning Sunday, January 31, 2021 and continuing through February 6, 2021, the 35 Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre will participate in the annual national celebration of Catholic education: Catholic Schools Week.

The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2021 is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides young people and its contributions to our church, our communities, and our nation.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Schools Week will look a bit different. In lieu of the traditional open houses our schools have held in the past to meet with prospective families, the schools will be offering virtual open houses and one-to-one meetings with principals that will allow prospective families to ‘visit’ the Catholic school(s) of their choice from the safety and comfort of their homes.

This year, in spite of the pandemic, we have made significant progress transforming our schools through the Morning Star Initiative (MSI). Many elements of the Morning Star Initiative are already in place, like key academic improvements in mathematics, reading, and religious studies, which are helping students reach new potential. I am so grateful for the tireless dedication of the MSI team.

Working with the MSI team, Long Island’s Catholic elementary school faculty and staff continue to put the needs of the 11,626 students (nursery-8th grade) and their families first. From maintaining the continuity of instruction during remote learning when the Covid-19 pandemic hit back in March, to taking all of the necessary precautions to welcome students back into a safe school environment this fall, I am extremely grateful for the grit and determination demonstrated by our school community to address the academic, spiritual and social needs of our students.

Earlier this month, on January 4, 2021, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the death of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), one of the great native-born American Evangelizers and champions of Catholic Education. Please join me in praying that Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mary, Star of Evangelization continue to intercede for each of us, for our Morning Star and Department of Education teams, and for our principals, teachers, and staff. With prayers and gratitude for your efforts, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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