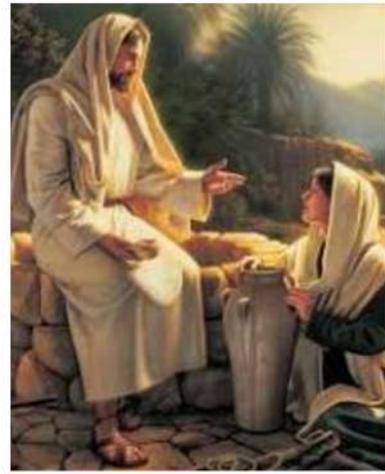




St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
John 4:13-14

March 8, 2026 Third Sunday of Lent

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, March 8th

7:30am: Paula Williamsen

9am: Clementine Siegel, Salvatore J. Lupo,

Fr. Peter T. Sticco, SAC, Steve Alexy

10:30am: Nicole & Jeanine Tedeschi

12n: Christine Cordaro

Monday, March 9th

8:30am: Kenneth Hettler

Tuesday, March 10th

8:30am: Murphy Violet Musa

Wednesday, March 11th

8:30am: Dorothy Valerga (liv)

Thursday, March 12th

8:30am: Bev (liv) & Buzz (dec) Santini, Anna Cawley,

Joyce LoFrisco, John Colasanti

Friday, March 13th

8:30am: Joseph Vincent DeCato, Rachel DeCato,

Angelina DeCato, Mateo DeCato

Saturday, March 14th

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: Robert Kane

Pray for the Sick

Mary Lynn Provenzano - Richard Fedyk - Rosemary Averill - Charlie Herbert

Frances Speidell - Thomas Stolfi - Christopher Sugahara

Pray for the Deceased

Arthur R. Welsch - Edward Kranis - Steve Koren - Donna Rebaudo

The Wine and Hosts

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

The Sanctuary Candle

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

Jesus : "I thirst for you"

My sisters and brothers in Christ, I was reflecting recently on the portion of the Beatitudes where Jesus says: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they will be satisfied." I cannot help but think of the conflict occurring in Iran right now – for decades a terrorist regime has oppressed many of the citizens and has displaced families – many of whom had to relocate here to Long Island. I pray for the innocent who are in Iran now and who are living in fear, certainly from the military assault, but also from injustices of the regime. And of course I pray for our military, our president, and the leadership of our nation and world for wisdom, protection and a diplomatic spirit that will lead us to peace. That is what I thirst for.

As we enter the Third Week of Lent, we find ourselves truly in the desert - these 40 days have a way of revealing what is really going on in our hearts. If you are like me, perhaps the initial enthusiasm of Ash Wednesday has given way to a bit of dryness. Prayer is distracted, fasting inconvenient, almsgiving less intentional - we can hit a spiritual dry spot. That is precisely why the Church gives us this powerful Gospel from John, the story of the Samaritan woman at the well.

The Scriptures speak deeply about thirst. We understand physical thirst - that dryness in our mouths and throats when we have gone too long without getting a sip of water. But beneath that physical thirst lies a deeper one - the spiritual thirst, the longing for God; the longing to be loved, to be seen, known, forgiven, and restored. Every human heart carries this thirst. We try to manage it, ignore it, or satisfy it with other things, but it remains.

In the Gospel, Jesus sits at Jacob's well at the hottest part of the day – noon! Midday in the desert is not the hour anyone would choose to draw water, especially a woman who would have to carry heavy jars back home. Yet she comes - perhaps to avoid the stares, the whispers, the pointing, the shame. And yet, Jesus is there - strategically positioned Himself at that holy site to meet her in her struggle, in her sinfulness, in her woundedness. He sees her. He speaks to her. He names her past, not to condemn, but to bring healing. He reveals a thirst within her that no relationship, no distraction, no habit could ever satisfy.

Which one of us cannot identify with her? At one time or another, we have gone to unhealthy wells expecting to be fulfilled and loved. We have turned to habits, patterns, or comforts that promised relief but left us emptier than before. We have tried to hide, self-medicate and fix things on our own without God - and often find ourselves right back where we started. The Samaritan woman's story is our story; we too know what it is like to thirst.

Yet Jesus promises something radically different - "living water." Water that will not just moisten the surface but will saturate our souls within us to eternal life. He speaks directly into her wounds because only He can heal them. My friends, this Lent, can I gently and humbly encourage you to return to the well of mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Come home to confession where you will encounter not shame, but mercy; not rejection, but restoration. The well of God's mercy can transform your heart, heal your past, and prepare you for a future rooted in His tender love. Experience that in our Lenten Lost Sheep Project 2026 – Live Mercy!

I am reminded of the words so dear to St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who reflected on Jesus' cry from the Cross, "I thirst." She would say that those words were not only about physical suffering, but about His deep longing for each of us. Jesus thirsts for you - for your happiness, your closeness, your trust. He longs for you to make room for Him in the ordinary moments of your day. As much as we thirst for God, never forget that He thirsts even more for us.

Let us not remain at the fringe at the edge of the well. Come to the Lord - to the sacraments, to Mass, to prayer, to confession. Allow Jesus to meet you in the heat of your day, in the dryness of your desert. He is already there, waiting for you, longing to quench your thirst with the only water that truly satisfies – His love and mercy.



Baptism

Let us welcome the following children who were baptized this past weekend:

Rowan Byrne
Dominic Sebastian
Tessa Virgona

Second Collection Catholic Relief Services

Next weekend, March 14/15, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds collected will provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to the vulnerable people here and abroad. Learn more about the collection by visiting: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

Banns I

Lauren Nappi, St. William the Abbot & Tyler Wherry, Lindenhurst, NY
Alyssa Ferro, St. William the Abbot & Stephen Schultz, Our Lady of Hope, Carle Place



Banns II

Julie Grzybowski, St. James, Seaford & Andrew Lewis, Our Lady of Mercy, Hicksville

Banns III

Skylar Fasano, St. William the Abbot & Anthony Manta, Jr., Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream

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)

January Offertory

	2016	2019	2020	2025	2026
Attendance	9135	7138	8614	7317	7618
Total \$	\$87,384.00	\$87,674.00	\$102,950.00	\$96,646.00	\$106,411.00
Per Person	\$9.57	\$12.28	\$11.95	\$13.21	\$13.21
# Sundays	4	4	4	4	4
Avg/Sunday	\$21,846.00	\$21,918.50	\$25,737.50	\$24,161.50	\$26,602.75
Avg/Attendance	2284	1785	2154	1829	1905

The years listed were chosen to represent an overall sample and include 10 years ago, the year before Covid/pastor transition, the year of the Covid shutdown, last year, and the current year

Catholic Ministries Appeal - Parish Totals

	2016	2019	2020	2025	Year to Date
Goal	\$137,100.00	\$136,700.00	\$146,700.00	\$162,000.00	\$170,100.00
Pledged	\$160,740.00	\$142,360.00	\$121,048.00	\$93,963.00	\$30,661.00
# Donors	796	550	480	330	126
Avg Donation	\$201.93	\$258.84	\$252.18	\$284.74	\$243.34
Rebate to SWA	\$41,908.00	\$31,368.00	\$2,934.00	-	-

The Catholic Ministries Appeal begins every February. Funds donated help with vocation awareness and the Diocesan Seminarian program, social programs such as Meals on Wheels and outreach to the most vulnerable, and healthcare initiatives for those who cannot otherwise afford it or are most at risk. The parish receives a rebate once our Diocesan goal has been exceeded.

BEHOLD



What do you
THIRST for?

RESTORATION

MERCY

LOVE

ORDER

PEACE

HOPE

JOY

FAITH

FORGIVENESS

RENEWAL



LIVE MERCY

Lenten Masses

Tuesday Nights at 7pm

February 24th - March 24th
there will be a free-will offering collected

This Week's Celebrant:
Fr. Joseph Schlafer



Stations of the Cross

Friday Nights at 7pm

Men's Prayer Group

Saturday Mornings
at 6:30am

February 21st - March 28th
IN THE ABBEY

Women's Afternoon of Prayer

AGONY AND HOPE:
Preparing for Holy Week through the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

Saturday, March 21st

2PM IN THE ABBEY
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

visit stwilliam.org/livemercy2026
for more information & to register

Are you being called?

The Diocese will be offering training for
Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
this spring for adults.

We invite you to discern if you are being called to these
ministries and apply to serve by visiting
stwilliam.org/ministries



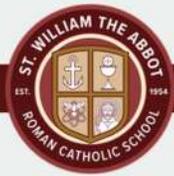
We want to take a moment to acknowledge the important role you play in your parish community and express our gratitude for your unwavering commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable individuals.

Diocesan Safe Environment Protocols include attendance at a Virtus class: Protecting God's Children, acknowledgement of Diocesan Codes of Conduct; Background Screening at five year intervals for those in active ministry. If you are involved in a ministry in your parish and your background screening was prior to 2020, you will receive an email from Virtus advising you to log into your Virtus account and complete the background screening application which is attached to your Virtus account. Screening is conducted by Sterling. Please remember we are here to assist you, if you have any questions or need support, reach out to us at cprotection@drvc.org.

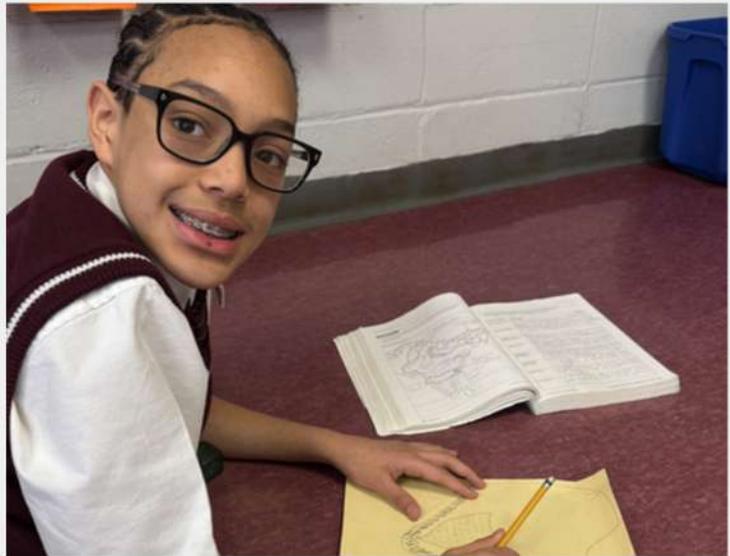
Your participation in this essential process is vital to our shared mission of ensuring safety and well-being for all.

Diocese of Rockville Centre

cprotection@drvc.org 992 North Village Ave. Rockville Centre, NY 11570 US



On Techless Tuesday, our 6th graders put their map skills to work by creating detailed maps of ancient India's geography, reinforcing key features like rivers, mountains, and plateaus. This hands-on activity not only reviews essential mapping skills but also deepens their understanding of how geography shaped the development of early civilizations!



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: "Led By the Spirit" (#130)

Offertory Hymn: "Again We Keep This Solemn Fast" (#125)

Communion Hymn: "The Supper of the Lord" (#338)

Communion Meditation: "Lead Me to the Desert"

Recessional Hymn: "Companions on the Journey" (#459)

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, cleaning supplies, and paper products

Lenten Adopt-a-Neighbor Program

Looking for a way to give back during Lent? Our Lenten 'Adopt-a-Neighbor' program offers you the opportunity to create a small Easter gift bag for a homebound neighbor or local child in need. Show someone you care by including a heartfelt message, prayer card or book, coloring pages or crossword puzzles, and maybe even a little Easter candy! To sponsor a neighbor, visit www.signupgenius.com/findasignup. Select "find a signup by creator email" and then enter socialministry@stwilliam.org. Click on "2026 Lenten Adopt-a-Neighbor" to enter the program and choose your adoptee! Questions? Contact the Social Ministry on 679-8532.

Job Fair March 26

The Town of Hempstead will be hosting a job fair on Thursday March 26 from 10:30am-3:30pm at the Freeport Recreation Center. To attend, register at www.hempsteadworks.com/jobfair, and bring copies of your resume! Employers that will be at the event include CVS, EAC Network, EPIC Long Island, City of New York Fire Department, Flagstar, Local 15, Long Island Cares, MercyFirst, MTA, NY Army National Guard, NYC Dept of Corrections, NYS Dept of Civil Service, PSEG, Sunrise Credit Services, USMC, USPS, US Air and Space, US Navy, Nassau University Medical Center, and many more! For more information call 516-485-5000 ext. 1100.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Nassau County Office for the Aging offers nutrition counseling? Their registered dietitians can provide free, individualized assistance with diabetes management, weight management, meal preparation tips and more! For more information, call NY Connects at 516-227-8900.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday March 17 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!



Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity

Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity were best friends. They learned about God together and became Christians.

God asks us to choose good friends. Ask them to pray for your friends.



Year A: Third Sunday of Lent

Catholic Kids Bulletin
March 8, 2026
Lent
Color: Purple

WOIFPWTODAYWPYOURPWKI

BPWYURWHEARTS

BKHEAROWHISPWVO

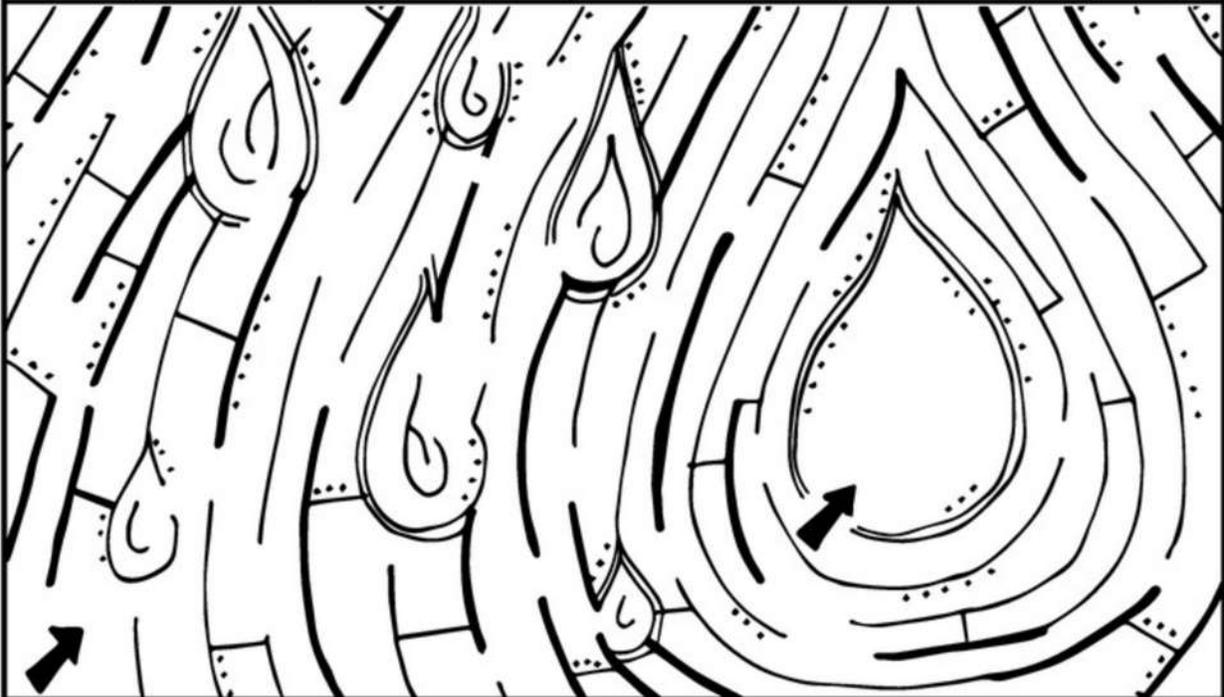
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

VOICEPWLHARDENSOANOTPEO



Are you saying extra prayers for Lent? Lent is a time to grow closer to God, and prayer can help you do that.

© 2025 TJB catholickidsbulletin.com



A woman gave water to Jesus, and He taught her about the living water that leads to eternal life in Heaven.

Year A: Third Sunday of Lent

© 2025 TJB catholickidsbulletin.com



stwilliam.org

@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
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