



# St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



October 4, 2026  
Twenty-Seventh 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

*"Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."*

*Matthew 21:43*

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, October 4th

7:30am: Barbara Geraghty

9am: Teresa & Charles Moscato

10:30am: Leon Pawelczyk; Kathy & Maks Kosecki

12n: Jerry Milbach

### Monday, October 5th:

Charles Schmidt; Thomas V. Fitzgerald, Jr.; Kenneth Banschback, Sr.; Cara Lynn McGuinness

### Tuesday, October 6th:

Fr. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, OP (liv)

### Wednesday, October 7th:

Victor Letellier, Jr; Colleen Kelly; Carol Calderazzo; Terri Albanese (liv)

### Thursday, October 8th:

Robert Rohan

### Friday, October 9th:

Robert H. Cox; Marguerite Fusco (liv); Vincent F. Romano; Andrea Nocito

### Saturday, October 10th:

8:30am: Members of the Purgatorial Society

5pm: Nicole & Jeanine Tedeschi

## Pray for the Sick

Brian Deas - Frances Speidell

## Pray for the Deceased

Sr. Joan of Arc Spelman, OSU

## Wine & Hosts

have been donated in memory of  
Jerry Milbach  
from Jane Milbach & Family

## ***The Northfork of Long Island – Wineries, Pumpkin Patches, and the Lanternfly***

There is something familiar about the image of a vineyard here on Long Island. We have seen the vineyards of the East End and the North Fork and perhaps some of us have traveled to the Napa Valley in California; places that become destinations of joyful memories with family and friends. A vineyard reminds us of something beautiful: cultivated grapes or carefully selected vintages accompanying a meal or piece of chocolate to enhance our palate. Wine has a way of adding to a meal, lightening the heart, and bringing people together. In Scripture, the vineyard becomes an even deeper image - a gift from God, a taste of His abundance, and a place where something beautiful can grow.

Anyone who knows a vineyard also knows that the 'fruit' does not simply appear. The soil must be cleared, the vines cultivated and pruned, the ground watered and fertilized and watched carefully. Even a watchtower is built to guard against animals and those who might damage or steal the harvest. Good fruit requires attention, patience, sacrifice, and care. The First Reading from the prophet Isaiah gives us this beautiful but sobering image of the Lord as the owner of a vineyard. He prepares the soil, plants the choicest vines, builds a watchtower, and does everything necessary for a good harvest - yet the vineyard produces wild and nasty grapes.

The Gospel also picks up this image - Jesus speaks of a landowner who carefully establishes his vineyard and entrusts it to tenants. Eventually the owner sends servants to gather the harvest, but they are rejected, beaten, and even killed. Finally, the owner sends his son, and he too is rejected. Jesus is speaking about the servants as the early prophets God sent throughout salvation history, and the Beloved Son is Jesus Himself. God provided all that was needed for an abundant harvest, but those entrusted with the vineyard forgot the One who owns it.

That raises an important question for each of us: how are we caring for the vineyard that God has entrusted to us? The owner seems to go away, but does He really? The real problem is that we become less aware of His presence. We forget that all we have is ultimately a gift - we can become complacent in our faith, allowing our prayer to become sporadic, our Mass attendance routine, our relationship with God secondary, and our personal pursuits more important than His will. This is where the "sour grapes" can begin to grow - not because God has stopped caring for us, but because we have stopped tending the vineyard.

Spiritual laziness and a lack of awareness of God's presence can slowly affect a person, a marriage, a family, and even a parish community. Like the lanternflies that have challenged our vineyards out East in recent summers, there are things that can quietly weaken the harvest if we are not vigilant. The vineyard requires attention - our hearts, our families, and our parish community require the same kind of spiritual attention. Perhaps the Lord is inviting us to become better caretakers of His vineyard. We are not owners; we are stewards. We have been entrusted with something precious - the gift of faith, the gift of family, the gift of this parish, and the responsibility of handing that faith on to the next generation.

As I look around the church these past few weeks, I am reminded how important is for us to teach our children and grandchildren, but sometimes we need to relearn aspects of the faith ourselves. We prune away what has become unhealthy, nourish what is good, watch carefully for what threatens the harvest, and remain attentive to the presence of the One who has entrusted this vineyard to us. The beautiful thing about a vineyard is that with proper care, the harvest can become something that is shared and experienced by many. We are now beginning to see the buds of hope in our new families and their young children growing together with our long-standing traditions of the parish. God is cultivating our lives and our parish with prayer, faithfulness, and generosity – we are entering a new season – blended with our deep history, and the "good wine" is being prepared!



## Banns of Marriage



### Banns I

Mary Quigg (SWA)  
& Brian Tuohy (SWA)

### Banns II

Rebecca Keenan (SWA)  
& Nicholas Williams (St. Mary's)

### Banns III

Danielle Chimienti (SWA)  
& Eric Chrostowski (St. Andrew's, NC)

Kristen Flynn (SWA)  
& Matthew Cooley (Holy Family)

Julianne Hilcken (SWA)  
& Luke Blasi (SWA)

### *We welcome these recently baptized children into the Church!*

Matthew Jack Bekmessian  
William Anthony Cardinali

Dominic Joseph DiCarlo  
Alivana Jo Marchelos  
Matthew Kevin Palminteri

Dominick Vincent Parsell  
Cole Michael Smith

## Pray for Those in the Military

Lt. Ian Bayer (USN) - Lt. Rebecca Bayer (USN) - Lt. Ryan Bayer (USN) - Sgt. Craig Bianco (USA) - A1C Austin Carreras (USAF) - PFC Jake Cilento (USA) - LCPL 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, Ret (USA) - Lt. Michael Napolitano (USN) - Lt. Michael O'Hara (USN) - MMN2 Emily Partridge (USN) - Lt. John Pawelczyk (USA) - 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) - LCPL Cole Tekverk, (USMC) - 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)

### September Offertory

|                | 2016        | 2019         | 2020        | 2025        | 2026        |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Attendance     | 7811        | 9247         | 2896        | 8159        | 7441        |
| Total \$       | \$82,542.00 | \$106,516.00 | \$90,634.00 | \$88,945.00 | \$85,201.00 |
| Per Attendee   | \$10.57     | \$11.52      | \$31.30     | \$10.90     | \$11.45     |
| # Sundays      | 4           | 5            | 4           | 4           | 4           |
| Avg/Sunday     | \$20,635.50 | \$21,303.20  | \$22,658.50 | \$22,236.25 | \$21,300.25 |
| Avg/Attendance | 1953        | 1849         | 724         | 2040        | 1860        |

*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

|               | 2016          | 2019         | 2020         | 2025         | Year to Date |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Goal          | \$135,600.00  | \$136,700.00 | \$146,700.00 | \$162,000.00 | \$170,100    |
| Pledged       | \$173,412.008 | \$142,360.00 | \$121,048.00 | \$93,963.00  | \$82,937.00  |
| # Donors      | 899           | 550          | 480          | 330          | 303          |
| Avg Donation  | \$192.89      | \$258.84     | \$252.18     | \$284.74     | \$273.72     |
| Rebate to SWA | \$52,010.00   | \$31,368.00  | \$2,934.00   | -            | -            |

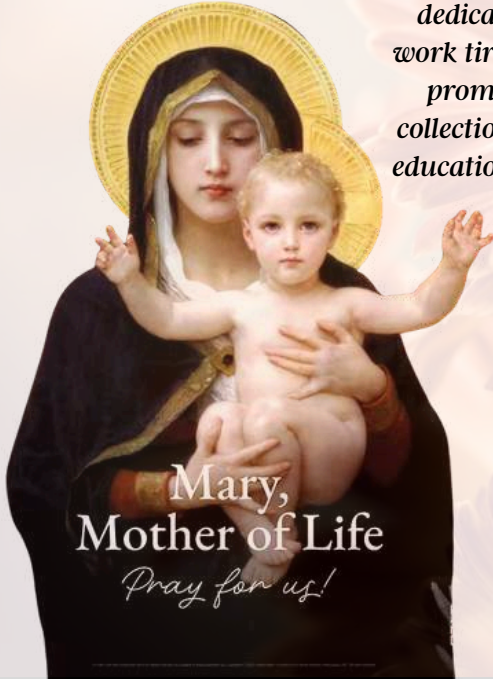
*The Catholic Ministries Appeal begins every February. Funds donated help with vocation awareness and the Diocesan Seminarian program, social programs such as Meals on Wheels and outreach to the most vulnerable, and healthcare initiatives for those who cannot otherwise afford it or are most at risk.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

## The Month of October

The month of October is set aside as an opportunity for the Church to look through God's lens of recognizing and honoring the sanctity and the dignity of ALL human life. Today is Respect Life Sunday, we are reminded that there are threats to life and human dignity that take many forms in our world. The

Diocese of Rockville Centre and so many dedicated individuals in each of our parishes work tirelessly to strengthen our commitment to promote a culture of life. We have a second collection this weekend to assist in the advocacy, education, an individual parish outreach to help support and grow this very important mission in the Catholic Church here on Long Island and throughout the country. I am so grateful for your prayerful and financial support of this cause.

Fr. Joe



Stand Up For  
**L I F E**

### RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Did you know about the largest Pro-Life event on Long Island for the past 28 years?

**What are you doing for Respect Life Month?**

Gather with others attending the vigil.  
Your presence can help save a life!

Stand Up for Life will take place on  
**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 2pm to 3pm**

Join us in either location:

Huntington  
at Routes 110 & 25  
(Near the Walt Whitman Mall)

Manorville  
County Road 111  
(South of LIE Exit 70S)

*Rain or Shine; Come for Some or Part of the Time*

This vigil is part of a nationwide family-friendly event held in hundreds of cities across the USA and Canada.

*All Respect Life  
Advocates are  
Welcome!*

[info@prolifeli.org](mailto:info@prolifeli.org)



## THE WORD OF GOD: POINTING US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO NAVIGATING THE  
BIBLE WITH FR. JOE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH**  
**9:15AM | 7PM**  
**IN THE ABBEY**

PLEASE BRING YOUR  
BIBLE AND A  
NOTEBOOK & PEN

# GOLF

## OUTING & DINNER

**TUESDAY**  
**OCTOBER 13TH**

**Town of Oyster Bay Golf Club**  
Woodbury, New York

DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL  
BUSINESSES, SERVICES, AND NEW ITEMS FOR  
OUR RAFFLES ARE APPRECIATED - PLEASE EMAIL  
[INFORMATION@STWILLIAM.ORG](mailto:INFORMATION@STWILLIAM.ORG)

[stwilliam.org/golf2026](http://stwilliam.org/golf2026)



## The Tradition Continues!

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a week at Outdoor Classroom (formerly Nature's Classroom) last week. Our students grew by getting away, taking a week-long break from technology, and learning, playing, and praying together in nature. During this trip, our students took time to remember Sr. Bridget Olwell, OSU, the former SWS principal who first approved the experience some 50 years ago!



*Some of our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students enjoying each other's company last week*

**We love an opportunity to welcome home our alumni!** Some of our recent graduates came home for the SWS Catholic HS Fair last week to encourage and inspire our middle schoolers as they prepare for the TACHS exam and choosing the right high school. We are SO proud of all of them!



THE ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS ARE BACK IN SESSION!  
VISIT [STWILLIAM.ORG/MUSIC-MINISTRY](http://STWILLIAM.ORG/MUSIC-MINISTRY) FOR MORE INFORMATION

ADULT MEN ARE INVITED  
TO JOIN US AT THE

## Men's Group

SATURDAYS AT 6:30AM  
IN THE ABBEY



### *St. Peregrine Prayer Group*

Those suffering from cancer, caretakers, friends and family are welcome to join us for this hour of silent prayer. Stay for the hour, stay for 10 minutes. The important thing are the prayers for yourself or your loved ones.

Monday 10/5 | 2pm-3pm

## JOIN THE ST. WILLIAM SHARKS CYO SWIM TEAM

REGISTER ONLINE NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 20TH  
PLEASE NOTE - BOYS 8 & UNDER AND BOYS 10 & UNDER ARE FULL

- Season runs from November 1st - April 18th
- Ages 7-18 (Age group is determined by age as of December 31st)
- 2 to 3 practices per week with 8 swim meets (Days/Times TBD)
- All new registering swimmers must prove their ability to swim a non-stop 25yd lap at practice
- Discounts available for families with 3 or more swimmers (contact [stwilliamsharks@stwilliamsharks.com](mailto:stwilliamsharks@stwilliamsharks.com))

scan to register



**PARENT MEETING**  
**NOV 5TH @ 7:00PM**  
THE ABBEY (LOWER CHURCH)

### *Our Catholic Community on Long Island*

*An Evening of Prayer and Support  
for Couples Suffering from Infertility and Miscarriage*

## ST. GIANNA MOLLA MASS

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

St. Barnabas the Apostle Church (Bellmore)

*Testimony from a couple who struggles with infertility early in their marriage*

*Presentation and Q&A by Dr. Paul Carpentier of the Gianna Center for  
Women's Health and Fertility*

*Reception with light appetizers and desserts to follow*

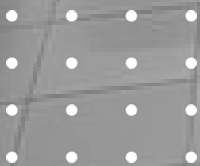


# Parish Engagement Survey

*Help Us Shape the Future of our Parish*



Take our survey by using the QR code or visit  
[stwilliam.org/survey2026](https://stwilliam.org/survey2026) to download a copy to return to  
the rectory by October 18th



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## OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD

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# FAITH FORMATION

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Faith Formation classes are in full swing and the children are off to an amazing start! We're exploring so many topics and enjoying different ways to pray. From Children's Liturgy of the Word, the Rosary, and Adoration, we're growing in faith together!



### ***Program Reminders***

For families who attend class at St. William the Abbot School, we'd like to remind you to please turn **RIGHT** when exiting the parking lot onto Washington Avenue to help traffic flow better. It makes a big difference!

Also, please remember that you can sign in using the QR codes only after Mass has ended. We cannot count instances where your family has left Mass before the Final Blessing. You can track your progress by visiting [themasscatholic.com](http://themasscatholic.com) and clicking "Forgot Password" (even if this is your first time signing in). This will allow you to create an account you can access anytime.

### ***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: "In this Place" - #308

Offertory Hymn: "Vine and Branches" - #340

Communion Hymn: "Come to Me and Drink"

Communion Meditation: "Love Has Come"

Recessional Hymn: "A Rightful Place" - #639

Visit [stwilliam.org/music-ministry](http://stwilliam.org/music-ministry) for more information on our Adult and Children's Choirs!

"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***

Mashed Potato (Bags) - Beef Stew - Cookies - Cereals (Special K, Froot Loops, Frosted Flakes) - Canned Spinach/Beets

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



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this upcoming Tuesday (October 6<sup>th</sup>) at 10am in The Abbey to knit and crochet lap robes, blankets, hats, scarves, and other items for the sick and those in need. Yarn is provided and those of any skill level are always welcome!

#### ***Catholic Health Ethics Seminar***

Catholic Health and the National Catholic Bioethics Center are offering a two-day seminar on *Catholic Health Care Ethics* on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kelly Center Parish Hall at St. Agnes Cathedral. The seminar will explore the moral principles that guide Catholic health care and examine today's most challenging ethical questions, including end-of-life decision making, organ donation, and reproductive technologies. Registration is required at [ncbcenter.org/regfox.com/rockville-centre-ny-2026](http://ncbcenter.org/regfox.com/rockville-centre-ny-2026). Medical professionals may earn continuing education credits.

#### ***Veterans Benefit Seminar***

Veterans are invited to a Benefits and Information Seminar at American Legion Post 1066 (Massapequa). The event will run from 10am to 12n on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. No RSVP is required. For questions, please contact the Nassau Veterans Service Agency at 516-572-6565.

#### ***Job Fair***

The Town of Oyster Bay is hosting a "Mega Job Fair" on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Oyster Bay Ice Skating Center from 10am to 1pm. Job seekers are invited to connect with employers from the private and public sectors to find new work opportunities. For more information, call 516-797-4560 or visit [oysterbaytown.com/workforce](http://oysterbaytown.com/workforce).



#### ***Memory Care Events in Wantagh***

Weekly drum circle memory care events are being held for adults with dementia and their caregivers by The Nassau County Office for the Aging. These one-hour interactive sessions allow participants to experience the power and connection of drumming to build community, reduce stress, and improve social engagement. Instruments are provided and no experience is necessary; but reservations are! The sessions take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in Wantagh Park. Please call 516-586-1507 to reserve a spot.



stwilliam.org



@stwilliamabbot

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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*

Rev. Patrick O'Brien  
*Associate Pastor*

priests@stwilliam.org

**Deacons**

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

**Rectory Staff**

Meredith Espina      Judy Goldman  
*Director of Ministry*      *Business Manager*  
mespina@stwilliam.org      jgoldman@stwilliam.org

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

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

*drvc vocations.com*

**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)

*drvc.org*