



St. William the Abbot

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



September 6, 2026
Twenty-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

*You shall love your
neighbor as yourself.*

Romans 13:9

Mass Intentions

Sunday, September 6th

7:30am: People of St. William the Abbot; Diane O'Neill;

Marion Napier; Murphy Violet Musa

9am: Manuel Galan

10:30am: Julia Alma Franco

12n: Emanuele Concetta

Monday, September 7th

Alexander Diachok, Jr.

Tuesday, September 8th

Mary & Bill Daly (liv); Dolores DiPaolo; Joan C, John, &

Elizabeth Lasher, Nancy Bahey

Wednesday, September 9th

Gene Goettlicher

Thursday, September 10th

Karl H. Fuessler

Friday, September 11th

Hugh McElhennon; Thomas Stolfi; Karla Pallas (liv); Valerie O'Connell

Saturday, September 12th

8:30am: Purgatorial Society

5pm: Nicole and Jeanine Tedeschi

Pray for the Sick

Cammy Seppe - Maureen Corbett - Joseph V. Servello - Terri Albanese - Catherine DiPietro

Pray for the Deceased

Ellen Jane DelGatto

Wine and Hosts

have been donated in loving memory of

Jerry Monk

from his family

Sanctuary Candle

have been donated in memory of
the all those who have entered into
eternal life on 9/11/01

Are We Asking the Big Questions?

As we draw closer to the end of the summer and Labor Day 2026, I find myself thinking about the moments that define a generation. As a boy, I remember listening to conversations among my parents and grandparents when, almost inevitably, someone would ask: "Where were you when President Kennedy was assassinated?" It was one of those moments when people could recall, almost to the minute, where they were - at school, at work, or gathered around the television at home. For us – especially here at SWA - September 11, 2001 became one of those moments. As we approach the 25th anniversary of 9/11, we can still remember where we were on that beautiful September morning; the sky was so clear and blue and the day began with such ordinary hope. Then, in a matter of hours, our world changed forever.

But perhaps, as we remember, the more important question is no longer simply, "Where were you?" Perhaps now we need to ask the BIG questions: Where are we now? Where have we been? And where is God leading us? This year, as our nation also celebrates 250 years of independence - and the parish approaches its 100th anniversary - we are invited to reflect not only on our history but on our future. What kind of people are we becoming? What kind of nation are we building? What do we truly value? And perhaps most personally: What is the meaning and purpose of my life? What difference am I called to make in this world?

Twenty-five years ago I was a new seminarian. When the attacks happened I was sitting in a philosophy class, wrestling with many of life's biggest questions. Perhaps the most challenging question for me was a very personal one: Why am I in the seminary right now? There was no "voice" from heaven that suddenly answered all my questions, but I can tell you what gave me comfort in the days and weeks that followed those terrible events - I learned that I could speak honestly with God, I could bring Him my raw and authentic emotions - my fear, anger, disappointment, confusion, grief, and eventually, my hope and love. And you know what? God could handle it.

God handled everything I threw at Him. He did not walk away from my questions. He walked with me through them. He comforted me. And little by little, He helped me discover that faith is not always having every answer. Sometimes faith is simply having the courage to keep asking - and trusting - that God remains with us in the asking.

Since that September morning we have lived through so much together. We have experienced personal losses, national division, wars, and a global pandemic that changed so much about the way we live, work, gather, and relate to one another. Yet, through every generation and every challenge, one truth remains: God is here. He is not simply waiting for us to find our way back to Him. He is pursuing us. He is meeting us in our questions, in our doubts, in our struggles, and in the deepest desires of our hearts.

The challenge today, however, may be different than it was twenty-five years ago. There are simply so many more voices competing for our attention. Look at the calendar on your phone or the one hanging on your fridge. Has there ever been a time when we had so many practices, teams, activities, appointments, opportunities, and ways to pursue "personal growth" for ourselves and our families? We have more technology designed to save us time, and yet somehow, we seem to have less of it. We are more connected electronically, and yet often feel more disconnected from one another. We have more opportunities than ever before, yet so many people find themselves restless, anxious, lonely, and searching for something more. Perhaps that is why the BIG questions matter.

Over these past few years, so many of you have shared with me what St. William the Abbot has meant to you and your family. You have spoken about baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, weddings, graduations, and funerals. You have remembered our school, our Faith Formation programs, the religious sisters and priests who served here, and the dedicated teachers, catechists, administrators, staff, and parishioners who helped shape your lives. You have also shared your memories of September 11th - how

this church became a place of prayer, solace, and strength for a community trying to comprehend the unimaginable. You remember packed Sunday and daily Masses. You remember people coming together for prayer. You remember the funerals of neighbors, friends, and loved ones who never came home. For so many, there was a journey from Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan to sacred ground here in Seaford.

As your pastor, my hope is that we never lose sight of the sacredness of this place. Not because these buildings are simply beautiful or familiar, but because this is where generations of people have encountered God. This is where tears have been shed and prayers have been whispered. This is where families have celebrated new life and entrusted loved ones to eternal life. This is where people have come searching... and discovered that the Lord was already waiting for them.

As we enter this anniversary year of remembrance, and as we continue to celebrate our nation and parish's remarkable history, my hope for St. William the Abbot is simple: that we may 'rediscover the sacred'. And perhaps the best place to begin is by asking the questions Jesus Himself asked. These are not questions meant simply to be read. They are questions meant to be prayed with. Questions to bring before the Lord. Questions to discuss around the dinner table. Questions to ask ourselves as individuals, as families, as a parish, and as a nation.

So, I invite you to slow down for a moment. Put aside the schedule. Turn off the screens and noise. Take a breath. And listen to what Jesus asking you:

"What are you looking for?" John 1:38

"Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your life?" Luke 12:25

"Do you want to be well?" John 5:6

"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet lose their soul?" Matthew 16:26

"What do you want me to do for you?" Luke 18:41

These are BIG questions.

And perhaps the most important thing is that we do not have to answer them alone. If you or someone you love is struggling to find the answers, if life has become too busy, too painful, too complicated, or simply too noisy, let me invite you to come back. Come and see. Come and pray. Come and listen. The Lord is still speaking.

And perhaps, in these final days of summer, as we remember where we were, celebrate who we are, and look toward where we are going, we may discover once again that the most important question is not simply, *Where was God?*; it is this: *Where is God calling me now?*

May we remember with gratitude and honor those who gave their lives on September 11th and all those who continue to serve and protect others. We pray especially for our first responders, members of our military, missionaries, and all who dedicate their lives to the service of others.

May God bless them. May God bless our parish family. And may God bless our nation as we continue to seek peace, justice, unity, and hope.

Let there be peace on earth - and let it begin with me.



Banns of Marriage

Banns I

Amanda Padula; St. William the Abbot
& Richard Regina; St. William the Abbot

Jessica Mangieri; St. Kilians, Farmingdale
& Michael Riis; St. William the Abbot

Banns III

Jacqueline Mezzasalma; Holy Family, Hicksville
& Bryan Mulholland; St. Ignatius, Hicksville

Gisselle Anguita; St. William the Abbot
& Justin Shannon; St. William the Abbot

Baptisms

Anthony Tari

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) - 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) - 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)

Blessing of the Backpacks



WE Remember



“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

Our cross made of steel from the World Trade Center will be on display in the sanctuary on Friday, September 11th from 11am to 6pm and we invite you to stop by and offer a prayer for all those lost as a result of the September 11th attacks and for their families who continue to mourn them.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we will be introducing memorial opportunities that will be displayed from Friday, September 11th through Sunday, September 13th.

We also want to compile a comprehensive list of those who perished from our faith community - parishioners and SWS graduates - as a result of September 11th.

Please use the link below for memorializations and to submit names.

Scan
for more
information



stwilliam.org/911memorial



Four Curriculum Leads. One Exceptional Faculty.



Mrs. Gioglio, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Kern, Ms. Bradley

We are incredibly proud to share that SWS has FOUR DRVC Curriculum Leads among our faculty! The Diocese of Rockville Centre Curriculum Lead initiative recognizes and develops accomplished educators who serve as instructional leaders, supporting best practices, strengthening curriculum and instruction, and fostering collaboration and professional growth among their Catholic School colleagues.

Having four Curriculum Leads under one roof speaks volumes about the caliber of the SWS faculty. Our teachers are not only dedicated educators—they are educational leaders whose knowledge, commitment, innovation, and passion for Catholic education are truly worthy of emulation.

At SWS, we are proud to be “Building on the Blessing” of an extraordinary faculty committed to faith, excellence, and serving others.

Our Welcome Back Night was more than a gathering—it was a celebration of a school community on fire with faith, friendship, and the Holy Spirit!





ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

GOLF

OUTING & DINNER

CELEBRATING OUR 99TH ANNIVERSARY AS A PARISH

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 13TH

Town of Oyster Bay Golf Club
Woodbury, New York

*VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER GOLFERS,
MAKE DINNER RESERVATIONS & VIEW
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES*



STWILLIAM.ORG/GOLF2026

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: "All Are Welcome" - #543

Offertory Hymn: "Whatsoever You Do" - #621

Communion Hymn: "I Have Loved You"

Communion Meditation: "O Word of Christ"

Recessional Hymn: "City of God" - #382

Our Adult and Children's Choirs will resume in the fall!

"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

Canned Chicken - White Rice (small bags) - Canned Carrots - Cooking Oils - Sugar - Dish Soap



Thank you, SWS!

St. William the Abbot School families generously donated backpacks full of school supplies and lunchbox treats last week! These supplies were collected during Welcome Back Night - a true example of "Building on the Blessing!"

Yarn Donations

The Office of Social Ministry is accepting yard donations to be used by the Prayer Shawl Ministry to create items for the sick and homebound in our community. Full skein yarn, worsted weight, and multiple skeins of the same color (to make blankets) would be very much appreciated and can be dropped off to Parish Social Ministry (in the Convent) Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4pm.

Did You Know?

The Boutique in Amityville is run by the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless and provides an in-house shopping experience for people in need - including our parishioners referred there by Parish Social Ministry. Donations of new and used clothing are accepted at their location - 600 Albany Avenue - on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10am to 3pm



Family Counseling

The Family & Children's Association is introducing their "Families Healing Together" program to provide free, short-term counseling for youth and families in Nassau County to break the cycle of stressful experiences and provide coping skills to ensure future success. This program is geared towards families who have a history of trauma or have experienced - or at risk for - substance abuse challenges. For more information, contact csorensen@fcali.org or call 516-746-0350 ext 5215.

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 next session takes place on Wednesday, September 9th at 2:30pm in Wantagh Park. Please call 516-586-1507 to reserve a spot.

Saint John Chrysostom

Saint John Chrysostom was known as "Golden Mouthed" because he was a great speaker. He talked to people about Jesus.



How many bees are in this picture?

Saint John Chrysostom said that bees are very important because they work hard to help others.

Bees live together in a family. Each bee works to help the whole family.

How do you help your family?



Catholic Kids Bulletin

September 6, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green



XLKJIFPTODAYWOIYOURHEAR

XHEOIHEARTSOWKEJ

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

BJDHISOVOICEJWK

XLKBJHARDENTOINOTIWYOUR



The candles in the church are made from beeswax. How many candles are in your church?



Use the coordinates to finish the sentence.

Jesus said,

"Where two or three are gathered..."

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	T	I	L	R	I	N	O
2	F	S	T	H	E	X	F
3	M	I	D	S	T	X	R
4	O	F	P	L	K	J	H
5	C	B	T	H	E	M	X
6	H	E	B	E	A	Q	R
7	S	J	R	L	M	G	H

1,A

2,D

2,E

6,G

5,E

6,E

3,A

3,B

1,E

1,F

5,C

2,D

6,B

3,A

1,E

3,C

7,A

5,C

4,A

4,B

5,C

2,D

6,B

3,A



Jesus is teaching the disciples about the church. The church isn't just the building—it's all the people that worship God.



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*

drvcvocations.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
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