

# St. William the Abbot

Roman Catholic Church



Welcome to St. William the Abbot

**April 11, 2021 - Second Sunday of Easter  
Sunday of Divine Mercy**



“Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” - John 20:27

## PARISH INFORMATION

### RECTORY

Office: 516.785.1266  
2000 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
[stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org)

### RECTORY HOURS

**Monday - Friday**  
9 AM - 1 PM  
**Saturday**  
9 AM - 6 PM  
**Sunday**  
9 AM - 1 PM

## MASS TIMES

The presider schedule can be found on the parish website [stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org)

### DAILY MASS

**Monday - Friday**  
8:30 AM

### WEEKEND MASS

**Saturday**  
8:30 AM & 5 PM  
**Sunday**  
7:30 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM, & 12 PM

The Church will be open for private prayer Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM during the Easter season. If there is something taking place in the church such as a funeral, wedding, class, parent meetings, RCIA, etc., parishioners should understand that they should not remain in church during these activities.

The Sanctuary Candles used at mass this week were donated in loving memory of

*William Pizarro, USN*

from RDC Div 416.

The Altar Candles used at mass this week were donated in loving memory of

*Ann & Bill Zorn*

from Ann O'Brien.

The Wine and Host used at mass this week have donated in loving memory of

*Edwin J. Boden*

from your family.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, April 11, 2021

People of St. William's  
Edwin Boden  
Intentions of Valdez and  
LeGoff Families (LIV)  
Edwin J. Boden

### Thursday, April 15, 2021

Collective Intentions  
Stephen Whiston  
Joseph Marullo  
Margaret Kruger  
Raymond Dee

### Monday, April 12, 2021

Kenneth Fehling

### Friday, April 16, 2021

Edmund Leck

### Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Loretta Modena

### Saturday, April 17, 2021

Purgatorial Society  
Thomas Paradiso

### Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Hugh Lynch

## Pray for the Sick

Diane Kimbley  
Michael Rinaldi  
Anthony Brennan

Gary Panzl

Mary Palleja  
Robert Valerga  
Amilia Palleja

## Pray for the Deceased

Maureen Dobbin  
William E. Benson, Jr.  
Dorothy J. Topper

Nicholas f. Ortiz  
Vincenza P'Attoma  
Michael J. Rinaldi

## Divine Mercy Sunday 2021

If we have learned anything from the past year, it is that life is so unpredictable. There have been long-standing customs, traditions, and ways that we have done things that have been drastically changed in the past year. For us as Catholic Christians, we cling to the knowledge and hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and that never changes. But as I look over all our ministries, our events, and our past traditions, I realize that we will continue to do them, but very differently moving forward. One feast that has always held a special place in my heart, and I believe here at St. William the Abbot, is the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. This year we will have a modified day of prayer, adoration, and praying the Divine Mercy chaplet this Sunday, but my hope is that we take the spirit of Divine Mercy Sunday and bring it to the world as missionary disciples charged by Jesus to reveal that grace to so many who need it.

The devotion was developed by a Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska - whose prayer conversations with Jesus and her personal experience of God's Mercy was revealed in a diary chronicling her experience. I encourage you to read her journal. It is powerful and inspiring. Pope Saint John Paul II affirmed and spread the Divine Mercy devotion, officially placing it on the liturgical calendar to follow Easter Sunday. We know the real origin of this beautiful Feast comes from the Gospel we listen to this weekend. Take a moment to reflect on what was happening in these encounters with the risen Jesus that Easter Morning: Mary at the tomb, the disciples on the way to Emmaus, and most especially what happened in the Upper Room. Remember, those first disciples would have seen Jesus be tortured, publicly mocked, stripped of any type of dignity and clothing, and then crucified on the cross for all to look at. Obviously, the physical suffering of the experience would have had an impact that no doubt would instill anxiety and fear into anyone, especially those first believers. So, you cannot blame them for scattering, and hiding from the possibility of a similar experience from the Jewish leadership and the Romans. But I think their disappointment in themselves for having abandoned and denying Jesus would have also been brewing in their hearts and minds.

We are told that Jesus enters the room, he passes through the walls, and the locked door, and put himself right in the midst of all that was going on in their minds and hearts - the disappointment, the doubt, the anger, the embarrassment, the fear; and the first thing Jesus said to them was "peace be with you." He dispelled their worry and fear, he made himself present and available to all that was happening to them at that moment, and he did not shy away, he did not walk away, he did not abandon them, and most importantly he forgave them. This is not only an example of mercy, but an enhanced Divine Mercy. A type of mercy and forgiveness that can look past everything that may have been done (or not done) by someone and see a Beloved in front of them.

All of us at one time or another have been wounded by the humanity and sinfulness of others. That is why Jesus (in His humanity) is able to truly know what we have experienced, what we have been through, or are currently going through now. He knows. He desires us to respond as He did, but we must act as He acted. Remember that the King of Kings humbled himself to serve others, to wash feet, to forgive, to sacrifice and lay his life down. And he invites us to do the same.

I believe that is where we are both individually and as a parish in this post-resurrection time. I challenge you to think back to the moment when you experienced divine mercy from someone. Where have you been so boldly and radically forgiven from something that perhaps you would not even forgive yourself for? Or may not have been "deserving" of that forgiveness. But someone went through the walls for you, or through a locked door to stand before you and offer the healing that comes only from full forgiveness. Or perhaps it was you who did that to another, you were the one who pursued a loved one to knock down the walls and go through the locked doors that can separate us from one another. This must be the post-resurrection church community that St. William the Abbot becomes. We know that type of forgiveness can certainly happen in the confessional, but it is even more profound when it is experienced at the homes in Seaford, Wantagh, and Massapequa; or at the ballfield, or the parking lot, or even on some of the crazy roadways of Long Island. We are disciples called into holiness and mission, and that began when the original disciples left the Upper Room - and it continues here with us, today. Go and BE Divine Mercy, Offer Divine Mercy, and Live Divine Mercy!

Happy Easter! Thank you for your presence and generosity.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Rectory News

## Memorializing

The Rectory is issuing Mass Cards, enrollment in the Purgatorial Society, Memorializing the Wine, Host, Candles and Altar Flowers. Please call the Rectory for more information (516) 785-1266 or email [information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org)

## Light a Prayer Candle



Lighting candles has long been a sacred ritual in all traditions, creating precious moments in our own and other people's lives where we pray for loved ones, friends, and ask for or give support.

## 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.

## Emergency

If there is an emergency in which you need to contact a priest immediately, please call the Priest Emergency telephone - 516-312-7361.

## Garden Ministry

The Garden Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with gardens in need of some TLC...great opportunity to serve our parish needs! Please email [information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org) if you are interested.

## Year-End Tax Statements

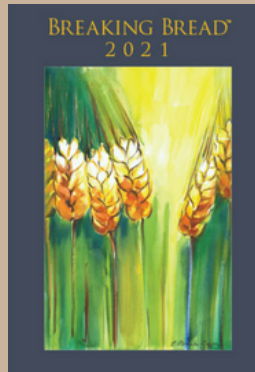
Please note that year-end statements for your taxes will not be automatically mailed out. They may be obtained upon request from the Rectory. Please call 516-785-1266 to request your statement, or email your name, address, phone number and envelope number to [information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org).



## Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11  
In the Church  
Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

## Missals



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.

## Email List

If you are not currently on our email list and would like to receive email updates on parish news and the bulletin, in your inbox please register on the parish website.

[stwilliam.org](http://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 oyx.

## LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

Join us online to view our live-streamed masses on the parish website [stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org).

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 PM



PODCAST

CONVERSATIONS WITH PODRE

WEEKLY PODCAST EPISODES  
POSTED ON WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM

Associate Pastor

FR. JAMES HANSEN



LISTEN ON:

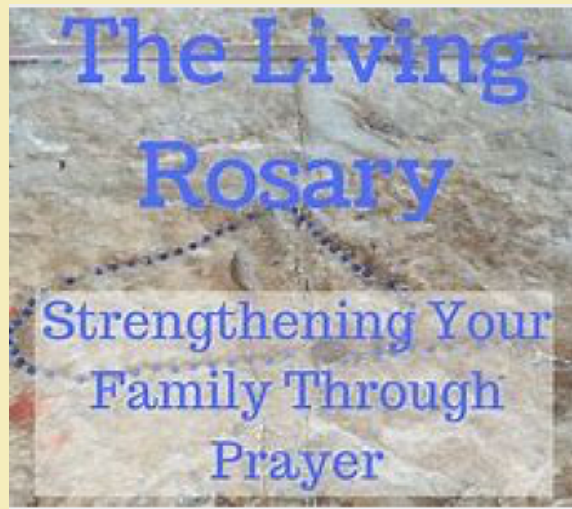
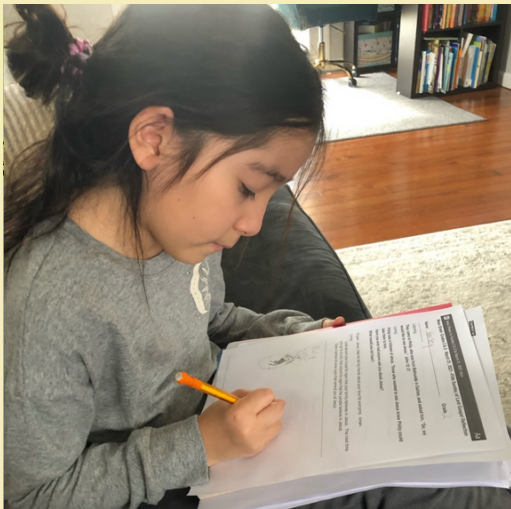
FIVE PODCAST EPISODES  
AVAILABLE ON  
SPOTIFY.COM  
APPLE PODCAST  
AND  
STWILLIAM.ORG



# Faith Formation

Today is Divine Mercy and we hear in the Gospel; “Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe”. Easter was last week, and Jesus rose from the dead, and we did not see anything before our own eyes, but yet we still believe in Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit that has been given to us, from when we were Baptized and also from Confirmation. We do not need to actually see Jesus in person, because we have the Faith, Love, Trust and Belief in Jesus who was given to us from God the Father. Jesus’ dying on the cross was the biggest act of mercy. He gave up His life so that we could be forgiven of our sins and go to Heaven. You should thank God for all that he has given you and what he continues to do for you. “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting”.

Faith Formation is having a Parent Session and it is taking place on Monday, April 12th, Tuesday, April 13th, and Wednesday, April 14th. The Sessions are at 4:30pm and 7:00pm in the Church. All Parents must register to attend. On Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00pm in the Church, as a Parent/Child Session, we are inviting the parents and children for the Living Rosary. A Living Rosary is when people are used to represent each bead of the Rosary. If your child would like to actively participate in the Living Rosary, whereas the child will hold a bead and pray the Hail Mary out loud, please contact the Faith Formation Office online at [faithformation@stwilliam.org](mailto:faithformation@stwilliam.org) or call 516-783-2528.



# Holy Thursday





## Good Friday





# Easter Sunday





# Stump the Priest



## QUESTION -

**God knows everything, he knows what is in our hearts and minds, he knows what we are capable of doing, and he knows what we are going to do even before we do it. Do we truly have free will? Or do we have predetermined destiny?**

Let us consider this analogy as an attempt to offer a solution to this puzzle. The manufacturer of the car knows very well the make and all the functions of the car. The manufacturer knows the limit of the speedometer, the engine capacity, the maximum number of passengers, the required oil for the engine, and, as a matter of fact, adds instructions to ensure the safety of the buyer or driver. Does this foreknowledge of the manufacturer control or predetermine the driver's over speeding, drunk-driving, jump of the red light, driving and texting and the like? Absolutely no!

God is indeed omniscient-this means he knows everything even before they happen. He fore-knows the activities of every human being he created. However, this foreknowledge of his does not in any way predetermine the choices or activities of human beings. The simple reason is that he gave human beings free will, intellect and reason to make choices for a good life. The gift of these faculties makes human beings unique among all creatures and by them we shape our own lives by freely choosing the good which is in accord with the moral law.

The fact that human beings make wrong choices and suffer disastrous consequences by itself proves that God does not predetermine our actions. Because if he did, there wouldn't be any wrong choice since he is all good. You could be sure that good and loving as he is, he would have predetermined only good actions. An all good God cannot predetermine the choice of the "bad" because the "bad" doesn't have any place in him. The problem is with the improper understanding of the use of free will. Too often, freedom or free will is thought of as "the freedom to do whatever one wants without any limits or responsibility and without any submission to the truth of the moral law; but there is no such thing as freedom that is independent of responsibility and accountability. This is what our first parents, Adam and Eve, failed to overcome-to exercise their freedom within the limits imposed by God. By this failure came original sin, and with it, the consequence of a weakened will which struggles to choose the good except aided by the grace of God.

God created us in his image and likeness, gave us free will, and then the moral law to help us cooperate willfully in his plan of creation. Out of respect for this freedom, God neither forces us to make the right choices nor prevents us from making wrong choices. Otherwise, we would not be free and he could not judge us either.

The evil in the world, even that which reaches monumental proportions, is the bitter result of the wrong choices we make with our free will which is weakened by original sin. Therefore we cannot blame God for the evils that find their origins in our abuse of freedom.

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

### US Air Force -

Capt. Matthew B. Frasse  
Tech. Sgt. Eric Meyers  
AIC William Hughes  
Tech. Sgt. Karl Muench  
Major Thomas F. Shields

### US Navy -

Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald  
Ian Bayer, Ensign  
Rebecca Bayer, Ensign  
Ensign Michael Napolitano  
MMN2 Emily Partridge  
Commander Michael Sean Slatley

### 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

### US Army -

Capt. Caitlin M. Lee  
Sgt. Brian Kirby  
Major Eamon G. McArdle  
Sgt. Donald Rogers  
Major Christopher James Ustler  
Major Kurtis Unger

### USMC -

Lt. Kevin J. Butler  
2nd Lt. Dana Duggan  
Corporal Frank A. Finocchio  
L.Cpl. John Mosier

### US Coast Guard -

Lt. James Knudsen  
Daniel Timpanaro  
LT. Commander Katherine Ustler  
Frank Pristera



# Safety

## Dispensation from Mass

As a reminder, the dispensation from the requirement to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Those who are most vulnerable and at a greater risk (due to age, preexisting health conditions or being in close proximity to vulnerable people) are encouraged to remain home at this time.

If a person shows any symptoms of illness, they are asked to please not come to church. We encourage you to join us for Mass online on the parish website [stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org)

## Overflow Space

We do have overflow space in the Abbey for Masses. Please follow the directions of our Ushers if the Church reaches capacity and you are asked to attend the Mass in the Abbey.

## While attending Mass during this difficult time

- Please sanitize your hands
- If you are a family please occupy a pew
- Be kind and considerate
- Please keep social distance
- Don't congregate in the Church or parking lot before or after Mass
- Touch a bulletin, please bring it home

**Love for our neighbors should be one of the primary considerations.**

## 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.



## Communion by Car Line for High-Risk Individuals

Please consider virtual Mass if you are high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.

Weather permitting, we will continue to offer outdoor Communion (via car line) on Sundays at 1 PM, following the live-streamed Mass at 12 PM.

## Holy Communion

Because of concerns regarding the coronavirus, we request that those who choose to receive on the tongue wait at the end of the line. Please present themselves to the priest only to receive Holy Communion, and are asked to open their mouth and extend their tongue so the host can be placed on it without the priest's hand making contact with the recipient.

If you choose to receive in the hand, please place your hand out very straight and flat to allow the priest or minister to place the Eucharist safely in order to avoid contact with your hand. We also kindly remind everyone to please remove your mask before receiving Holy Communion, whether you choose to receive on the tongue or in the hand. Please put it back on after you have consumed the host.

## Holy Communion



When it is time to receive Holy Communion, please practice social distancing as you walk in the communion line. On the way back to your pew please maintain spacing. Everyone will come down the center aisles to receive communion. Please do not rush back to your seats.

## Arrive Early & Wear Your Mask



We do ask that everyone arrive early so that we can seat everyone 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.**

## Sacristy



For the safety of our Priests, we ask that parishioners refrain from entering the Sacristy. Please do not hand offering envelopes, letters etc. to the Priests. Please drop them off in the Rectory Mail Slot.

We Pray for all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit. For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety. For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace, comfort, and healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

## Staying Connected

With St. William the Abbot visit us at [stwilliam.org](http://stwilliam.org) to view our bulletin online, presider schedule, and see other parish information.



Facebook: Find us at:  
[stwilliamabbot](https://www.facebook.com/stwilliamabbot)



Instagram: Follow us:  
[@stwilliamabbot](https://www.instagram.com/stwilliamabbot)



YouTube: Find us at:  
[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) — St. William the Abbot Church

## Parish Contact Information

### CONTACT THE PRIESTS

Please send your email to [priests@stwilliam.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastoralcouncil@stwilliam.org).

### QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Please send your email to [igomez@stwilliam.org](mailto:igomez@stwilliam.org).

### QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTORY

Please send your email to [information@stwilliam.org](mailto:information@stwilliam.org).

### CONTACT THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Please send your email to [jgoldman@stwilliam.org](mailto:jgoldman@stwilliam.org).

### CONTACT FAITH FORMATION

Please send your email to [faithformation@stwilliam.org](mailto:faithformation@stwilliam.org) or contact the office directly at (516) 783-2528.

### CONTACT SOCIAL MINISTRY

Please send your email to [socialministry@stwilliam.org](mailto:socialministry@stwilliam.org) or contact the office directly at (516) 679-8532.

### CONTACT THE SCHOOL St. William the Abbot School



Office: 516.785.1266  
2001 Jackson Avenue  
Seaford, NY 11783  
[stwilliamtheabbot.net](http://stwilliamtheabbot.net)  
(516) 785-6784

## Parish Social Ministry

### 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**

**By Appointment Only**

### Food Pantry

**Shaving Cream**

**Paper Towels**

**Dish Soap**

**Cat Food**

**Apple Juice**

**Canned Fruit**

**Sugar**

**Toothpaste**

### Help for COVID Vaccinations

Do you or someone you know need help booking an appointment for your COVID vaccine? We have volunteers that are willing to help you navigate the online process, or even book your appointment for you! If interested, please call the Parish Outreach office at 516-679-8532.

### Easter Thank You!



Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. William the Abbot, we distributed over 50 baskets of food to local families this Lenten season. Baskets were accompanied by gift cards for the purchase of fresh foods and other necessities. Families with children received baskets of candy, stuffed animals and other Easter themed items. Without your donations, this would not have been possible! We are so grateful for your support.

### 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.

### Bereavement

Although we are not yet holding in-person Bereavement Ministry sessions, trained facilitators are available to support you in your grief journey. Let us help you to find peace while dealing with your loss. Please call Parish Social Ministry at 679-8532 so we can discuss support options currently available.



# Catholic Kids Bulletin

April 11, 2021  
Sunday of Divine Mercy  
Color: White



WOGIVEOTHANKSOWTOPTHE

BOEEVERLASTINGO

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

PWLORDPWFOROHEI

ISPGOODPWHISOWELOVEPSISP



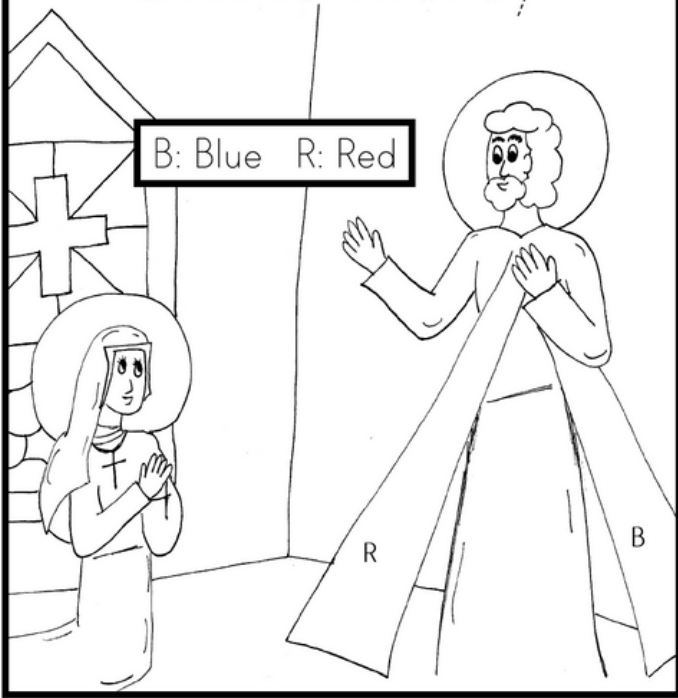
Learn part of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.  
"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

## Saint Faustina

Jesus appeared to Saint Faustina and asked her to paint a picture of Jesus with the words, "Jesus, I trust in You."

She taught people about Divine Mercy. Divine means God. Mercy means forgiveness.

## Divine Mercy



16	5	1	3	5	
2	5	23	9	20	8
25	15	21			

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

## Gospel



Jesus rose from the dead and visited the disciples. Thomas didn't believe his friends when they told him about it. Jesus appeared to Thomas and said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."



### **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](http://stwilliam.org/rcia). Fill out the registration form and the Inquiry form and email it back to [rcia@stwilliam.org](mailto:rcia@stwilliam.org). You will be contacted by our coordinator regarding starting sessions.