

SERVED BY

Rev. Thomas Maher, Pastor
 Rev. James Redstone, In memoriam
 Deacon Michael Abatemarco, Pastoral Associate
 Deacon George A. Prevosti
 Deacon Kevin Smith

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms may be arranged for most Sundays of the year at 1:00PM. Please call the parish office to schedule a Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard every Saturday after the 9:00AM Mass, 1/2 hour before each weekend Mass and Wednesday evenings at 6:00PM.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Those who wish to enter the Catholic faith and Catholics who wish to complete the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation are most welcome to begin the journey at any time. Please call the parish office if interested.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Engaged couples should call the parish office for an interview appointment one year before the wedding date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered at anytime. Please call the parish office.

OBTAIN A MASS CARD

During office hours we welcome those who would like to request that their special intentions or deceased loved ones be prayed for particularly at a weekday or weekend Mass. We ask for a donation of \$10 per Mass.

OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

Registered parishioners who have been asked to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor, should call the parish office to request a certificate of eligibility.

REGISTER FOR THE PARISH

We are so happy to welcome new members of our Parish Family! Please come to the parish office so that we can get your information and meet you.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday
 9:30AM to 3:00PM



The Parish Family of

ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT

Roman Catholic Church

2740 Lakewood Allenwood Road, Howell, NJ 07731
 732-840-3535

www.stwilliamtheabbot.com

email: stwilliam@optonline.net

OUR MISSION

We, the parish family of St. William the Abbot, a welcoming Catholic community, led by the Holy Spirit, are called to proclaim, and to witness to, the Good News of Salvation, so that we may grow together, among all generations, and advance the Kingdom of God, in our love and service of God and neighbor.

COME WORSHIP WITH US**Weekends**

Saturday: 5:00PM

Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:15AM, 11:45AM

Weekdays

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00AM

Wednesday: 9:00AM & 7:00PM

Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 9:00AM

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

What is an active parishioner?

An active parishioner is a person who participates in the life of the Church. This means to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and share in Christ's role as priest, prophet and King. We are called to lead others to faith by our good example, through loving service to others, and offering our prayers, works and activities to God.

- An active parishioner is a person who has received or is preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- An active parishioner is a person who attends Mass regularly at St. William the Abbot and actively supports the sacramental programs for Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Parents who want a Catholic Faith Formation & Education for their children will see to it that their family attends Mass faithfully EVERY Sunday.
- An active parishioner gives of themselves by donating TIME, TALENT and TREASURE to the ministries of the parish and or to the volunteer organizations that support the parish. We are to share in the responsibilities that keep our Parish alive in a vibrant way.
- An active parishioner is a good financial steward of the church. As a parishioner, it is important to understand that giving financially to support the parish is a vital and key component to active parishioner status.

Why you need to be an active parishioner

Parishioners seeking to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, or those wishing to be joined in Holy Matrimony must first be verified as "active members" of the parish.

An active member:

- 1) Is properly registered with the parish
- 2) Faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- 3) Participates in parish activities/ministries whenever possible.
- 4) Consistently uses the parish envelope system or the electronic giving program to support the parish.

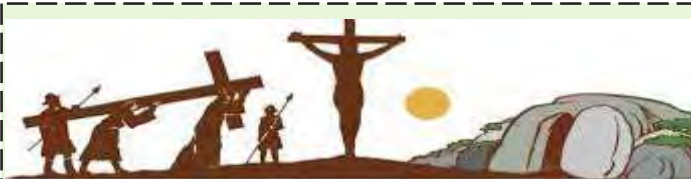


Weekly Collection for March 19
 Number of registered families . . .1,193
 Number of weekly envelopes returned . . .168
 Envelope contributions . . . \$5,033.00
 Loose contributions . . . \$779.00
 Capital Contribution . . . \$410.00
 Easter Flowers . . . \$395.00
 WeShare . . . \$1,678.00
Total: \$8,295.00
 Bishop's Overseas Appeal . . . \$596.00

Thank You! We are so grateful to all those who financially sacrifice each week to support our parish and its ministries! We would especially like to thank all of those who faithfully use their weekly parish contribution envelopes and those who give online through We Share.



April 6
Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
 No morning Mass
 7:00PM Mass
April 7
Good Friday, Passion of the Lord
 No morning Mass
 3:00PM
April 8
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil
 No morning Mass
 8:00PM
April 9
Easter Sunday
 8:00, 10:15, and 11:45



Join us for Stations of the Cross every Friday night at 7PM.

Here is the link to our Facebook page:

<https://m.facebook.com/Saint-William-the-Abbot-Catholic-Church-174135519840986/?tsid=0.37482415393666724&source=result>





"It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the living and the dead." II Mac. 12:46

Saturday, March 25

+5:00 Mary Crawford
req M/M Kevin Moroney

Sunday, March 26

8:00 People of the parish
+10:15 Ann Marie Commandatore
req The Sulewski Family
+11:45 Darian Tveici
req Michelina Giuliano

Monday, March 27

9:00 Special Intention for Hailey Raiser
req Bill Raiser

Tuesday, March 28

+9:00 Fr. Michael Lambeth
req St. William the Abbot Parish Family

Wednesday, March 29

+9:00 Fr. James Redstone
req Sal Ciardiello
+7:00 Fr. John Scully
req St. William the Abbot Parish Family

Thursday, March 30

+9:00 Fr. James Redstone
req M/M Dennis Heffernan

Friday, March 31

+9:00 Linda Roberts
req The Housman Family

Saturday, April 1

+9:00 In reparation for the blasphemies against
Our Lady's Perpetual Virginity
+5:00 Albert Dutko
req Deacon & Mrs. Mike Abatemarco

Sunday, April 2—Palm Sunday

+8:00 Stanley Radziszewski
req Cathy Ferraro
10:15 People of the parish
+11:45 Deacon Frank Jackson
req M/M Tom Butala

The power of prayer!

PRAY FOR HEALING

Please bring health, healing and hope to those in our community who are sick especially Ana Guillermo, Jonathan Capriotti, Emily Capriotti, Dakota Schick, Judy O'Connor, Anna O'Connor, Evelyn Zeliff, Matt Puglisi, Robert Caruso, Matthew Cerritelli, Christopher Puglisi, Matthew Roszkowski, we also ask you Lord, to watch over all those with incurable autoimmune diseases and for all those who are afflicted with MS, CF, Lou Gehrig's disease, for those who suffer from Alzheimer disease, dementia, addictions, and their families.

God of all consolation, give life and health to our sisters and brothers for whom we pray in your Holy Name. Amen.



The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of John Gilbert, requested by the Gilbert Family.



Please keep in your prayers those serving in our military. Send in names of friends or family members you would like us to pray for.

Oryah Hametz Hokzler—Army
Vincent Moran—Marines
Hunter Freedline—Army



We are the
BODY
of CHRIST
2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The Annual Catholic Appeal has begun. Last year we got back \$5400. If we make our goal we will get money back again. Thank you to those who have already donated! We have 81 donors and raised \$17,370 already. That is 62% of our goal! A great start!



Rosary

Thank you to everyone who has been praying the rosary. So far we have prayed the rosary 3,626 times. Congratulations! Keep up the good work! Remember to pray one decade for St. William the Abbot Parish. The Rosary is also prayed here in the church after the 9AM Mass everyday. All are welcome.

Marking the days of Lent with the Saints

Sunday, March 26 Fifth Sunday of Lent	First Reading: <i>Ezekiel 37:12-14</i> God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel. Second Reading: <i>Romans 8:8-11</i> The Spirit of God dwells in you. Gospel: <i>John 11:1-45</i> Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.
Monday, March 27 St. Matthew of Beauvais	Saint Matthew of Beauvais was a crusader and martyr. A native of Beauvais, France, he took the cross from Bishop Roger of Beauvais and set off as a member of the First Crusade which had been called by Pope Urban II to free the Holy land of Islamic domination. While on the crusade, he was captured by the Saracens and imprisoned. When he refused to abjure the Christian faith, he was beheaded, in the year 1098.
Tuesday, March 28 St. Conon of Naso	St. Conon of Naso was born in the year 1139. While praying in church, Conon, a Basilian monk of Naso, Sicily, resolved to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. In the Holy Land, he experienced a vision of a serpent coiling itself around the throat of a certain priest. At once Conon went to the priest and related the vision as a warning to him. The priest confessed to Conon that he had hoarded money for himself. Conon persuaded him to give all his riches to the poor. After returning to Sicily, Conon healed a boy afflicted with apoplexy. In 1571, over three centuries after Conon's death, the city of Naso was stricken with a famine resulting from stormy weather that had prevented both the harvesting of the grain crop and the import of provisions by ship. The people thereupon invoked the intercession of Conon. As a sea captain was preparing to sail with a load of grain from a Sicilian port, Conon appeared to him in a vision and asked him to change his destination to a port near Naso. Torn between his fear of the rough seas and his reverential fear of the vision, the skipper in the end did as Conon had asked and completed the voyage safely. The grain from his ship reached Naso, ending the famine. St. Conon died in the year 1236.
Wednesday, March 29 St. Berthold	Saint Berthold is considered by some historians to be the founder of the Carmelite Order. He was born in Limoges, France, and proved a brilliant student at the University of Paris. Ordained a priest, Berthold joined his brother, Aymeric, the Latin patriarch of Antioch, in Turkey, on the Crusades. On Mount Carmel he found a group of hermits, joined them, and established a rule. Aymeric appointed Berthold the first Carmelite superior general. Berthold tried to reform the Christian soldiers in the region, having had a vision of Christ, and headed the Carmelites for forty-five years. He died in the year 1195.
Thursday, March 30 Bl. Amadeus IX of Savoy	Bl. Amadeus was the Duke of Savoy, and a model of charity. Amadeus was the son of Duke Louis I of Savoy. He was born in 1435 in Thonon, Savoy and betrothed as an infant to Princess Yolanda, the daughter of Charles VII of France. They were married in 1451, and Amadeus succeeded his father as duke of Savoy. A victim of epilepsy, he resigned his dukedom around 1471, leaving Yolanda in control. A revolt developed, and Amadeus was imprisoned until King Louis XI of France, Yolanda's brother, secured his release. He died on March 30, 1472, known for his charity and concern for the poor. He was beatified in 1677.
Friday, March 31 St. Benjamin	The Christians in Persia had enjoyed twelve years of peace during the reign of Isdegerd, son of Sapor III, when in 420 it was disturbed by the indiscreet <u>zeal</u> of Abdas, a Christian Bishop who burned the Temple of Fire, the great sanctuary of the Persians. King Isdegerd threatened to destroy all the churches of the Christians unless the Bishop would rebuild it. As Abdas refused to comply, the threat was executed; the churches were demolished, Abdas himself was put to death, and a general persecution began which lasted forty years. Isdegerd died in 421, but his son and successor, Varanes, carried on the persecution with great fury. The Christians were submitted to the most cruel tortures. Among those who suffered was St. Benjamin, a Deacon, who had been imprisoned a year for his Faith. At the end of this period, an ambassador of the Emperor of Constantinople obtained his release on condition that he would never speak to any of the courtiers about religion. St. Benjamin, however, declared it was his duty to preach Christ and that he could not be silent. Although he had been liberated on the agreement made with the ambassador and the Persian authorities, he would not acquiesce in it, and neglected no opportunity of preaching. He was again apprehended and brought before the king. The tyrant ordered that reeds should be thrust in between his nails and his flesh and into all the tenderest parts of his body and then withdrawn. After this torture had been repeated several times, a knotted stake was inserted into his bowels to rend and tear him. St. Benjamin expired in the most terrible agony about the year 424.

Cursillo Corner

Want to grow deeper in your relationship with God? Want to rediscover the sense of Christian community? Participate in the joyful experience of *Cursillo*. *Cursillo* is Spanish for "short Course" and has been in our diocese for over 50 years. A *Cursillo* is an encounter with self, Christ and others that enhances the rest of your spiritual life. *Cursillo* focuses on piety, study, and action and includes faith sharing which helps us to live our lives in a Christian manner. For more information visit our website at www.trentoncursillo.org or contact Mary Weis at 732-939-0172.



Do you know how to knit or crochet? Join our thriving ministry where we create shawls and blankets with love and prayers to be given to someone who needs comfort, healing, peace or care. We also give blankets to all the babies when they receive the sacrament of baptism. We give shawls, lap blankets and fidget sleeves to the residents of Preferred Care in Wall at Christmas. Donations of white yarn is always appreciated. To find out more or to join this wonderful ministry, please email the parish office at stwilliam@optonline.net.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.

Give blood.

This Lent: Chocolate vs Blood

Today, Sunday, March 26th, St. William the Abbot Knights of Columbus will sponsor its annual blood donation drive. In imitation of Our Lord who shed His blood for all of us, consider donating a pint of yours for a needy person in dire need. Details to follow. What a Lenten sacrifice! Wouldn't it be greater than not eating chocolate?

Pray to your Guardian Angel everyday:
Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

**Fig Tree**

In the time of Jesus, the fig tree was popular and plentiful in the Middle East. Often called "poor man's food," figs are rich in calcium, phosphorus and iron. Figs are one of the seven foods mentioned when the Israelites reached the Promised Land. It was one of the "first fruits" brought to the Temple each year in thanksgiving for God's bounty. Figs were one of the earliest fruits to be cultivated—first in Asia, then Greece and other Mediterranean countries. Today Algeria is the largest producer of figs in the world.



Join us at 1:00 on Wednesdays to play Mah Jongg. If you don't know how to play and would like to learn, we do have experienced players to help you. All are welcome. Please email or call Maureen at the parish office.

**Chrism**

Anointing the candidate with oil is the third part of the ritual for confirmation.

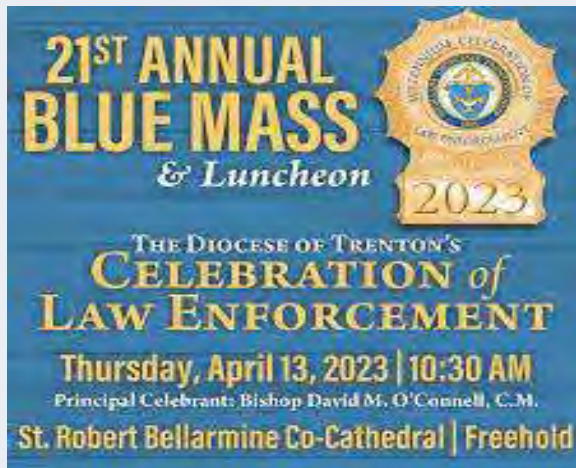
For the Church, three holy oils express God's tenderness: Oil of the Catechumens, used in preparation for baptism, Oil of the Sick, used for healing in the sacrament of the sick, and Holy Chrism. They are soothing, strengthening, sanctifying oils.

Used as part of the ritual for confirmation, chrism is the Church's most sacred oil. When it is consecrated, perfume is mixed into the oil, and the aroma when it is used signifies that the recipient is enveloped by the Holy Spirit.

This oil draws upon the imagery of kings and queens being anointed as part of their coronation—still done in England. Besides confirmation, it is also used in baptism and holy orders. Chrism symbolizes that the person is part of heaven's "royal family" - a daughter, son of God, It is also used to consecrate an altar.

Here in the Diocese of Trenton the oils are blessed by Bishop David on Monday of Holy Week. A priest or representative of all the parishes in our diocese join in the celebration and take back to their parishes a portion of these oils for use throughout the coming year.





The 21st Annual Mass and Celebration of Law Enforcement will be held at 10:30 a.m. April 13, the Thursday of Easter Week, in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold. Men and women of all faiths are invited to attend this annual celebration for which Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

The event, also known as the Blue Mass, has been held in the Diocese to thank God for the sacrifice and service to the communities given by police officers and law enforcement agents at every level.

The Blue Mass had not been held since 2019 because of COVID-19 precautions.

Luncheon donation \$20 per person. No charge for immediate families. For information and to order tickets online, go to bluemass.org.

This year's Mass will include the reading of names of all law enforcement personnel in the Diocese who have lost their lives in the line of duty in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

A Police Officer's Prayer

O Almighty God,
Whose Great Power and Eternal Wisdom
Embraces the Universe,
Watch Over All Policemen and Law
Enforcement Officers.
Protect Them from Harm in the
Performance of Their Duty to Stop Crime,
Robberies, Riots, and Violence.
We Pray,
Help Them Keep Our Streets and Homes
Safe Day and Night.
We Recommend Them to Your Loving Care
Because Their Duty is Dangerous.
Grant Them Your Unending Strength and
Courage in Their Daily Assignments.
Dear God,
Protect These Brave Men and Women,
Grant Them Your Almighty Protection,
Unite Them Safely with Their Families After
Duty Has Ended.
Amen.



Our Promise to Protect

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter For the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 888-296-2965 or email abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

What are the beatitudes?

Jesus taught the beatitudes during the time he was preaching throughout Galilee, curing people, teaching in the synagogues.

As word of his miracles and teaching spread, folks began to travel from Galilee, Jerusalem, Judea, and across the Jordan River to hear him preach. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the eight beatitudes on a mountain near Capernaum and Tabgha.

The eight beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-12 are:
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5th Sunday of
Lent
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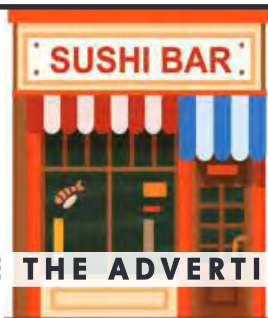
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