

The Church of
ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT
A Roman Catholic Church
2740 Lakewood Allenwood Road
Howell, NJ

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.

**MASS SCHEDULE
WEEKENDS**

Saturday: 4:00PM (Vigil)
Sunday: 8:00, 10:15 & 11:45AM

WEEKDAYS

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00AM
Wednesday: 9:00AM & 7:00PM
Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 9:00AM

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

As announced in the bulletin.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday after the 9:00AM Mass, and 3:00 to 4:00PM. Half hour before each weekend Mass, and Wednesday at 6:00PM.

ROSARY

The Rosary is recited weekdays and Saturdays after the 9:00AM Mass with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Parish email: stwilliam@optonline.net
Website: stwilliamtheabbot.com
Phone: 732-840-3535



Rev. Thomas Maher, Pastor
Rev. James Redstone, In Memoriam
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Michael Vona, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Michael Abatemarco, Pastoral Associate
Deacon George A. Prevosti
Deacon Kevin Smith

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday, 9:30AM—1:30PM
(Closed on Holy Days & Legal Holidays)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This sacrament is given for those facing serious illness or surgery, and for those of advanced years. If you or a family member plan to enter the hospital, please see Fr. Tom following Mass if you would like to receive this sacrament. In case of emergency, please call the parish office.



December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

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.



The Sanctuary Lamp is lit in memory of Anna and John Gryglak r/b Daughter and Family.



Weekly Collection for November 30, 2025

Number of registered families. . .1209
 Number of envelopes. . .148
 Envelope contributions. . .\$504.00
 Loose contributions. . .\$5,202.00

WeShare. . .\$1,320.00

Total. . .\$7,026.00

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 those who faithfully use their weekly parish contribution envelopes and those who give online through WeShare.

JOY
Advent Week 3

Prayer for Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Week 3: "O, Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."

Bambinelli Sunday

The 3rd Sunday of Advent, (Gaudete Sunday), has for many years been the day when the children of Rome bring the figurines of Baby Jesus from their family cribs to St. Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope during the Angelus. The day is affectionately known at "Bambinelli Sunday."

Instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II, the tradition has continued and grown in popularity across the universal Church. Children are invited to wrap the blessed figurines in Christmas wrapping paper when they return home; and then to place them under the tree, to be opened as the first gift of Christmas; thus encouraging young children to make the connection between the gifts they receive on Christmas Day and the greatest gift that any of us can receive, Jesus; and the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local Church where they worship each weekend.

Fr. Tom will bless all the baby Jesus' after all Masses, this weekend.

!!ATTENTION!!: For all you Vision Board fans, please watch the bulletin for information regarding St. William the Abbot's upcoming Ladies Vision Board Night in January.

Weekly MASS Intentions

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

Saturday, December 13 St. Lucy

9:00—Donald and Vivian Goff
r/b Daughter
4:00—People of the Parish

Sunday, December 14 Third Sunday in Advent / Gaudate Sunday

8:00—Janice Ciardiello
r/b Sal Ciardiello
10:15—Pat & Mary Cleary
r/b Reynolds & Cleary Families
11:45—Carine Arico
r/b Valente Family

Monday, December 15

9:00—Sylvio Capriotti
r/b Capriotti Family

Tuesday, December 16

9:00—Jaime Catapano
r/b M/M Macaluso

Wednesday, December 17

9:00—Carol Baker Nale
r/b M/M Steve Ferraro
7:00—Jay Ziznewski
r/b Ruth Ziznewski

Thursday, December 18

9:00—Cecilia Colfer
r/b Czimcharo Family

Friday, December 19

9:00—Anna & John Gryglak
r/b Daughter & Family

Saturday, December 20

9:00—Anthony Pasquarillo
r/b M/M Ron Neal
4:00—Larry DeWise
r/b Liz Cerbie

Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00—People of the Parish
10:15—Nicholas Mariniello
r/b M/M Richard Capitan
r/b Reynolds & Cleary Families
11:45—Virginia Ball
r/b Cathy Ball

The power of prayer!

PRAY FOR HEALING

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Please bring health, healing, and hope to those who are sick in our community, especially: Jonathon Capriotti, Emily Capriotti, Matthew Cerritelli, John Sproat, Jr., June Daquaiust, Eileen Bertola, Michael Untisz, Joseph Untisz, Wayne Farmer, Barbara Maloney, Natasha Sanchez, Richard Policastro, Erin Mackintosh, Gene Sacco, Johnny Daley, Richard Romano, Kerry O'Connor, Ethel Lowe, Nicola Schirripa, Mary Ann Carissimo, Debbie Palmer, Gina Furci, Dr. Fiore, Lisa Brooks, Daniel Bivona, Alana Parisi, Nicholas Asterino, Nicholas Serzan, Michael Thompson, Anthony, Donna Calamia & Grace Santisi. We also ask you Lord, to watch over all those with incurable autoimmune diseases and for all those who are afflicted with cancer, 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.**



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
John & Emma Carlucci—Air Force
Anthony Morsillo—Marines
Kathryn McEnaney—Coast Guard
Mitchell McEnaney—Coast Guard
Katie Austin Underhill—Army
Jeremy Ramos—Air Force
Eddie Roszkowski—Navy
Aaron MacDonald—Marine
Max Culbertson—Navy
Eric Hertel—Navy
Lauren Millerbernd—Marines
Darlene Pabon—Army



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.



Reading I: Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10 The prophet offers a message of encouragement meant to lift the spirits of the covenant people in exile.

Reading II: James 5: 7-10 An appeal for patient endurance in the midst of suffering. Encouragement comes from the example of farmers with their raising of their crops, as well as the life of prophets like Job.

The Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11 Jesus performs the works and offers the credentials of the awaited Messiah. John the Baptist becomes His worthy forerunner praised by Jesus. Yet Jesus tells the delegation sent by John that the least New Testament saint outshines the most illustrious saints of the Old Testament.

Third Sunday of Advent

"Gaudete Sunday"



"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. **Today is known as Gaudete Sunday.** The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE A RECENTLY REGISTERED PARISHIONER AND ARE USING ENVELOPES, PLEASE PUT YOUR LAST NAME AND ENVELOPE NUMBER ON THE ENVELOPE OR WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CREDIT YOU FOR YOUR WEEKLY GIVING. STOP BY THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.



Please send us a picture Christmas card of your family, so we can display them on our bulletin board! Thank you!

Ways to remember or commemorate an event at St. William the Abbot

Commemorative Bricks: This is an ideal way to commemorate a graduation, wedding, special family celebration, or to acknowledge a loved one. To order a brick, which will be placed in the garden near Mary, contact the parish office. The cost is \$100 for 8x8 brick and \$75 for a 4x8 brick.

Bequests

St. William is a tax-exempt non-profit Organization and gratefully accepts donations from last will and testament and/or stock to assist our parish. For more information on how to have your wishes known, please talk to your personal banking representative. May God Bless you for your generosity!

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp can be lit in honor of or in memory of a loved one for one week. It is announced in the bulletin and before all the Saturday/Sunday Masses. The donation is \$25.

Flowers for Jesus

Flowers for Jesus is a bouquet of flowers that will be bought in honor or memory of a loved one. They will be placed at the Altar for the weekend Masses. It will be announced in the bulletin and at each Mass. The donation is \$50.



-Choose weekly or monthly donation

-Update desired offering any time

-And, print your year-end statement in seconds—at any time!

Online giving is the best way to support St. William the Abbot now more than ever! It provides steady support, it's environmentally friendly, and less costly than using envelopes. Look for the WeShare link on our website.

WHAT DO WE REMEMBER EACH WEEK OF ADVENT?

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

HOPE



It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

PEACE



The second candle, also purple, represents Peace. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

JOY



It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

LOVE



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes Love. It reminds us that God is love.



Our Holiday Mass Schedule '2025

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Vigil Solemnity of Christmas
4:00pm 6:00pm 8:00pm

Thursday, December 25, 2025 Nativity of the Lord
10:15am and 11:45am

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Vigil Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
9:00am 4:00pm 7:00pm

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2026
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
10:00AM



OUR **ANNUAL BON-FIRE** WILL BE HELD ON **MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 6:00PM, WEATHER PERMITTING.** JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS, A CUP CAKE CONTEST AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



“The Night the Savior Was Born”

Join us for a weekend of faith and festive fun!

Saturday, December 13th, right after the 4:00pm Mass:

Enjoy our *musical Christmas pageant* in the church, followed by **crafts for kids** and an **Adult Beverage Garden** in the parish hall.

Sunday, December 14th at 4:00pm

Don't miss the Christmas play, plus **crafts, hot cocoa, and cookies** for all.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there both days!

Celebrate the joy of Christmas and the night our Savior was born!

Hope to see you there!

Dawn Cappetto

School of Religion Administrator

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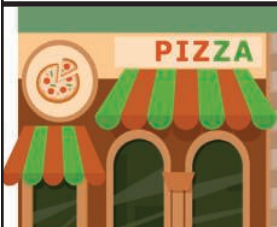
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ASK **#WHATS
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in remembrance of *Samantha Josephson*

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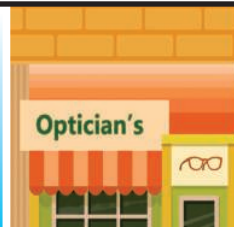
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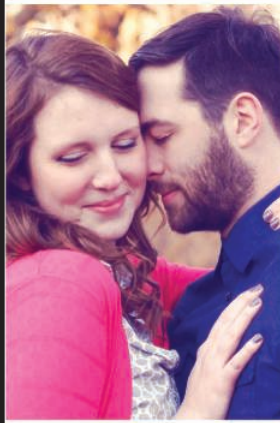
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