



*St. William the Abbot
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018*

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**Fourth Sunday of
Advent**

Parish Mission Statement

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.

Fr. Thomas Maher, Pastor

Fr. James Redstone, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Michael Abatemarco
Deacon George A. Prevosti
Deacon Kevin Smith, MBA

Parish Office:

2740 Lakewood Allenwood Road
Howell, NJ 07731
732-840-3535 Fax 732-840-3663

Office Hours:

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

Office Staff:

Mrs. Maureen Cisek
Mrs. Elaine Ferraro

Director of Music:

Mr. Billy Lawlor

School of Religion:

Mrs. Dawn Cappetto, Administrator, ext. 202

Website:

www.stwilliamtheabbot.com

Email:

stwilliam@optonline.net

Masses

Sunday: 8:00, 10:15, 11:45AM
Monday, Tuesday: 9:00AM and Noon
Wednesday: 9:00AM, Noon and 7:00PM
Thursday: 9:00 and Noon
Friday: 9:00AM
Saturday: 9:00AM and 5:00PM

Novena

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wednesday
7PM Mass
Novena to the Blessed Mother after Saturday 9:00AM
Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard on Saturday, 4:00PM
Wednesday 6:00PM and 1/2 hour before each Mass

Baptism

Baptisms may be arranged for any Sunday of the year
at 1:00PM. Call the Parish Office for arrangements.

Baptism Preparation Class

Class takes place on the third Monday of every month
at 7:00PM. Call the Parish Office to register.

Weddings

Engaged couples should call for an interview appoint-
ment one year before the wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office anytime for urgent visits.

RCIA

Any adult who is interested in learning about our
Catholic Faith should call the Parish Office.

New Parishioners

Welcome to our Parish Community.
Please call or visit the Parish Office for a Registration/
Welcome packet.

Finance Council

Frankie Francese (Chairperson), Steve Sousa, John
Maniscalco, David Milanowycz and John Langan

Parish Council

Fr. Tom, John Carlucci, Dawn Cappetto, Maureen
Cisek, Jennifer Dimino, Pete Gilbert, Joanne Rapasky,
Patti Tiernan

Trustees

David Milanowycz and John Langan





**Christmas Mass
Schedule**

*Christmas Eve, Monday,
December 24:*

*No morning Mass
4:00PM in the Church and the Hall,
6:00PM and Midnight*

*Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25:
10:15 and 11:45AM*



Please bring health, healing and hope to those in our community who are sick especially Francesca Tortora, Jonathon Capriotti, Emily Capriotti, Dakota Schick, Marianne McVeigh, Don Goletz, 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.



Please send in your picture Christmas cards for our bulletin board.

The present is what slips by us while we are pondering the past and worrying about the future.



Reflections

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a Bethlehem, or "House of Bread," the city of Jesse and his son David, is now blest as the birthplace of Jesus, whose greatness shall reach to "the ends of the earth."

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 We learn that God prefers the sacrificial offering of Jesus' obedience to all the prior Old testament sacrifices. His was a total self-offering.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 Luke brings together the two mothers-to-be so that both of them may praise God's activity in their lives. Elizabeth's child is presented as the "precursor" of Mary's Child.

Our Lady's Holiday Recipe

- A heaping cup of happiness
- 2 cups of love and caring
- 1 cup of understanding
- 1 cup of joyful sharing
- A level cup of wisdom
- 1 cup of artful living
- 1 cup of thoughtful insight
- 1 cup of selfless giving

Mix ingredients together, toss in a little flair, serve to everyone you know topped with a tiny prayer.
-Our Lady of the Miraculous



How did the Wise Men travel?

Manger scenes used at Christmas in American homes and Churches frequently include the Wise Men and almost always show them with camels. However, the New Testament account gives no support for this. As far as the gospel record is concerned, it is well within the realm of possibility that they walked.

Camels entered the story because the general region of Persia is so closely linked with camels that early readers assumed they played a part in the journey to Bethlehem.

-Liturgical Publications

Christmas Trivia (answers on page 5)

1. Why do we use wreaths?
2. What two Christmas "stars" are not mentioned in the Night Before Christmas?
3. What does the word Christ mean?
4. What is wassail?
5. What does the word Emmanuel mean?
6. What was Frosty the Snowman's nose made of?





Mass Intentions

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

Saturday, December 22

5:00 Michael G. Murphy
r/o M/M Nick Vaillencourt

Sunday, December 23

8:00 Rose Ackert r/o The Lawlor Family
10:15 Nicholas Mariniello r/o M/M Rich Capitan
11:45 Ann Serra r/o The Beyer Family

Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve

No 9:00 Mass
4:00C Haberjan, Gates & Aberer Families
r/o Liz Cerbie
4:00H Marie Prevosti r/o M/M Kevin Moroney
6:00 Salvatore Ferraro r/o St. William the Abbot
Midnight Bob New r/o Lenny Munyer

Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day

10:15 George McKenna r/o M/M Mike McKenna
11:45 Ruzica Bozicevic r/o The Bozicevic Family

Wednesday, December 26

9:00 Robert Dougherty r/o The Dougherty Family
7:00 Multiple Intention Mass

Deceased:

Manuel Vila r/o The Gaul Family
Lee Mamchetti r/o The Downey Family
Dominick A. Ignoscia r/o M/M Ron Neal
Wesley Textores r/o Carol Mulkeen
Joseph Mazzarella r/o M/M Fred Manzella
Gregory Mannikus r/o The Furmato Family
John Sproat r/o The McDermott Family
Deacon James Gonzalez r/o M/M M. Nucciarone
Ann Askin r/o the McMahon Family
Mara Rancic r/o The Barden Family
Ronald Schron r/o The Beyer Family
Angel Garcia r/o Veronica Jeffrey
Grandparents of Veronica Jeffrey
Raymond Downey r/o The Downey Family
Jose Guillermo r/o The Guillermo Family
John & Mary Ann Early, Carmen Peirano, Luznith Valle, Erin Jamison, Josephine Tighe, Rev. Philip Cordisco r/o St. William the Abbot Parish Family

Thursday, December 27

9:00 Mary Mantone r/o Liz Schuckman

Friday, December 28

9:00 Christopher Reynolds r/o Fr. Jim

Saturday, December 29

9:00 Patrick Truax r/o Aunt Debbie
5:00 James Gratton r/o The Sulewski Family

Sunday, December 30

8:00 Betty Lawlor r/o The Lawlor Family
10:15 Rose Ackert r/o The Lawlor Family
11:45 The people of the parish



Pray for the Deceased ... of all our Parish family and friends, and for aborted babies and those men and women who died this week in the Service of our Country. *May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of Frank Hrabal, requested by the Hrabal family.

Origins of Christmas Traditions

Many of our Christmas traditions have interesting origins. The date came from a Roman god's festival.

The manger and carols are both attributed to St. Francis of Assisi after he created the first Nativity scene in 1223.

Mistletoe and holly came from the Druids and poinsettias are from Mexico.

Christmas trees originated in Germany and Xmas is a Greek abbreviation.

The original Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, was born in Turkey during the 4th century.

Christmas cards began as a kind of stationery produced by Sir Henry Cole of the British Postal Service.

The Advent Wreath originated in Eastern Germany and fruitcakes date back to the Romans.

-Liturgical Publications

The Sanctuary Lamp and Flowers for Jesus

The Sanctuary Lamp, which is located near the tabernacle, informs us that the Blessed Sacrament is present and is also a devotional candle. Each week we will post a notice in the bulletin for whom that candle burns; a deceased loved one, someone that is ill, an anniversary or other occasion. The offering for reserving the candle for the week is \$25. Also available are the Flowers for Jesus. They can also be purchased for \$25 for a loved one. Please stop by the Parish Office if you would like to reserve a candle or the flowers.

Saint Marie Marguerite d'Youville, Feast day December 23*Canada's First Born Saint*

Marie came from a prominent family and was the oldest of six children. When her father died, the family became poor and Marie helped her mother with the education of her siblings along with daily chores. When Marie's mother remarried, the town disapproved of her husband which forced the family to move. They settled in Montreal, Canada.

Marie met Francis d'Youville a wealthy young man, married him and had six children. Francis turned out to be a rogue, gambled and ran around with other women. His mother lived with them which added additional fuel to the fire. People turned against her because of the bad reputation of her husband. When Marie's husband died she was only twenty-nine years old. She had to cover his debts and started a needlework shop.

Marie started a lay group in her parish and opened a home to care for the sick and the poor. Soon other women came to help and they became known as the Grey Nuns (the Sisters of Charity). They opened the first orphanage in North America and also a military hospital.

**College Students**

Below is a copy of the letter Fr. Tom sent to the college students who are away at school and gave him their address. Hope all students are doing well and have a Merry Christmas.

December 06, 2018

Feast of St. Nicholas

Dear ,

"O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, born the King of angels".

With these beautiful words taken from the famous 18th century hymn, I greet you all. I wish you a Merry Christmas! Yet I am conscious that I do so in the middle of Advent. The above words have a double significance. O Come...(Maranatha), a sense of longing and expectation, a time of preparing our hearts for Christ. Full of hope we are invited to spiritually travel back to Bethlehem to make room for Him to be born in our hearts. "O Come" ... Now! Full of love this Christmas day! To "behold him". May we be caught up in wonder and contemplation with the Baby Jesus. "Savior, we greet thee Born this happy morning".

At the end of the summer we offered a Mass for you- our college bound students, we prayed for you and sent you off with our love and a promise that we would continue to keep you in our prayers, which we have done. This letter is to let you know that we are all praying even more for you now as your semester is ending. We know that you are completing projects, finishing papers and preparing for exams. We wish you all the best. We also know that you will be preparing to return home for Christmas. Your St. William the Abbot family looks forward to seeing you again and waits for you with open arms!

On this the feast day of St. Nicholas, we send you our greetings full of hope that you had a great semester at College and are preparing well during this Advent. Take some time to make your heart a new Bethlehem for Christ to be born on Christmas day. Know that that we have increased the times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and added an additional daily Mass during Advent Season so when you return home take advantage of them.

On behalf of the Parish Family of St. William the Abbot, we wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back to a place that always keeps you in our prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor



Thank you for your donations for our Christmas Flowers. These are the people we have been asked to pray for:

The Jones and Eckert Families, William Clark, Theresa Capitan, Elizabeth Capitan, Sue Iacangelo, John R. Ball, Jr., Anita Giampalmi, Manzella & Efferty Families, Rachele & Antonio, Catherine Cranwell, Elaine Nilsen, Carol Hensel, Alva Winnifred, Joyce & Monica, Our Grandparents, Jeanne & Louis Meo, Ray Hatala, Demarest & Funk Family, Rosemary Ferraro, Marguerite Bruns, Bob Mercer, Darlene Mercer, Deceased members of the Glowacz & Deering Families, Janice Ciardiello, Family & Friends of the Zeliff Family, Anica Svorinic, Ruzica Bozicevic, Florence Cerritelli, Patricia Robinson Kelly, Frank Zawacki, Concetta & Joseph Taranto, Dragotta & Izzo Family, Keith Lynch, Sr., Joseph Reardon, Teresa Hoelzel, William Wiedmann, Violet & Frank Ulon, Mildred Benson, Mary Krey, Robert Zisko, Lenardo & Martino Families, Members of the Beurskens & Dziemian Families, M/M Domenico Mircovich, Domenico Mircovich, Jr., Gratton Family, Patsy & Marie Franzese, Catherine Acconzo, Anthony Pepe, Alma Bartkowski, Mary Ellen Spall, Joseph & Anna Spoto, Steve Marino, Jennie Adams, Kayo Adams, Grace Amato, Biagio Amato, Mary & Roger Brosnan, Alfred & Helen DeDominicis, John & Mildred Gilbert, Robert & Laura Camp, The Jankowski Family, Robert Fey, Jr., Corti & Nebus Families, Robert & Agnes Guiff, Cosmo & Carmela Silvestri, Carmela Harris, William Harris, James Kelly, Robert Leary, Robert Dougherty, Carrie Lynn Wolfe, M/M Titus Casazza, M/M Kenneth Mayer, Eugene & Alice Cisek, The Duffy & Kern Families, Ann Serra, Josephine Rizzo, Crudell/O'Connor Family, M/M Leo Bizzarro, M/M John Ruane, William M. Potera, George & Ann Munyer, Thomas & Joan Moroney, Frank & Helen Daley, Jean, Jade, Shirley, Elvira, Mae, The Haberjan Family, Violet & Joseph Modica, Nando Emilio, Robert Pignatore, The Mircovich Family, Norma & Rev. Charles Moore, Patricia Kelly, Richard & Elizabeth Kerrigan, Louise & Armando Grisi.



Trivia Answers

1. Evergreens were a symbol of good health, red berries symbolize Jesus' crown of thorns and the circle shows eternity.
2. Santa Claus and Rudolph
3. Messiah or anointed One
4. Spiced ale or mulled wine drunk during celebrations for Christmas Eve
5. God with us
6. Frosty had a button for a nose

Word to be Spoken

Jesus came into this world for one purpose. He came to give us the good news that God loves us, that God is love, that He loves you and He loves me. Jesus wants us to love one another as He loves each of us.

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart but in a heart full of love and humility.

May His coming this Christmas bring to each one of us that peace and joy that He desires to give. Let us pray much for this grace of peace and joy in our hearts, in our communities and in our Church.

-St. Mother Teresa

The Nativity of Our Lord

If a child falls on the sidewalk, our first inclination is to pick him or her up and fix his skinned knees.

If a child runs a fever or develops an illness, we immediately do whatever we can to make him or her feel better.

If a child is hungry we feed him. If a child suffers the pains of hatred or solitude we do our best to comfort them.

If our first reaction is to lift a child from need, it would only follow that God the Father so loves His children that He gave us the greatest gift of Jesus Christ.

When we listen to the words of St. John, as he so delicately describes the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, "*What came to be through Him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.*"

Jesus is life, Jesus is the light of all life, and nothing shall ever darken that light.

Christmas reminds us to become "children of God." Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us.

-Liturgical Publications