

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." ~Pope Benedict XVI

November 29, 2023

Dear St. William the Abbot Families,

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! We have much to be thankful for, and as Fr. Joe mentioned at our Thanksgiving Mass, we Americans got this one right. A day to pause and give thanks to God for His abundant blessings. Doesn't get any better than that!

In that same spirit of gratitude, please accept my heartfelt thanks for the tremendous outpouring of support for the NCEA Day of Giving! So many of our friends and families donated (272 to be exact), making the campaign a success. Raising \$101,753 in 24 hours is no small feat, and we are expecting additional donations via various corporate match programs. We are blessed! I am still determined to reach our goal of \$125,000 in order to purchase a new Chromebook for each SWS student, so stay tuned!

Also in the spirit of gratitude, thank you to the HSA and Mrs. Laura Moccia for coordinating today's Children's Christmas Fair. Thank you, as well, to all who volunteered and made the day special for our students! Hope you love the gifts your children chose just for YOU!

Report Card Conferences are next week...registration closes TOMORROW, November 30, 2023. If you have not already done so, please schedule an appointment with your child's homeroom teacher before it's too late! The parent portal re-opens the morning of Wednesday, December 6, 2023 in order to view report cards.

Our 6th graders traveled to Holy Trinity High School today to enjoy the production of, "Elf: The Musical," starring TWO SWS alum, Mia Lomangino and Eva DiGrigoli. So proud of our alum for letting their lights shine and sharing their gifts with our current students! Break a leg!

I strongly encourage all parents to visit the <u>VIRTUAL BACKPACK</u> to keep abreast of all the great things happening at St. William's Parish and School during the month of December! It's a lot, so please visit the Backpack for

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CELEBRATION WALK

ADVENT

CRECHE BLESSING & TREE LIGHTING

PARTNERS IN FAITH

ADVENT CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS FAIR

BAKERY BOOTH

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

LAST CALL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

DIY CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING KITS

CHRISTMAS TREE CAKE POP

POPCORN & PAJAMAS

LUNCH WITH THE GRINCH

ISLANDERS FAMILY NIGHT

FLAG FOOTBALL

BOWLING







details on all events. The SWA Annual Christmas Fair is this weekend, 12/2 and 12/3, from 10am-4pm each day, so don't miss out on a little early Christmas shopping, in support of our HSA and all the work that goes into the success of this St. William's tradition. Thank you to Mrs. Melissa Kessler for her efforts in continuing this wonderful event!

Another fabulous St. William's tradition is the annual Creche Blessing and Christmas Tree-Lighting, taking place this year on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 7pm on the Rectory Lawn. Bring a friend and enjoy this opportunity for faith and fellowship as we enter into the beautiful season of Advent this coming Sunday! Come, Lord Jesus!

Speaking of Advent, please find a FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR in this edition of the Weekly Envelope. Please print out a copy, hang on the fridge, and spend time as a family preparing the way of the Lord!

Peace,

Mrs. Elizabeth Bricker, Principal











WE INVITE YOUR FAMILY TO LIGHT OUR ADVENT WREATH PRIOR TO MASS DURING THIS SEASON, PLEASE EMAIL KWALSH@STWILLIAM.ORG IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

WE ALSO INVITE YOU TO BRING YOUR ADVENT WREATHS AND/OR CANDLES TO ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND FOR THEM TO BE BLESSED

stwilliam.org



St. William the Abbot Roman Catholic Church

Preche Bledding & Tree Lighting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

7pm on the Rectory Lawn

BEGINNING WITH FAMILY ADORATION & ROSARY IN THE CHURCH AT 6:15PM

stwilliam.org

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2023

St. William the Abbot Catholic School Seaford, NY

Thoughtful Moments

St. Edmund Campion

St. Edmund Campion had a coveted position as lecturer at Oxford, and the admiration of his peers and Queen Elizabeth I. He renounced everything to become a lesuit missionary. He traveled England secretly to administer the Sacraments to persecuted Catholics. He was betrayed by an informer pretending to be Catholic, and was taken to the Tower of London. He was martyred for refusing to deny his faith.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

At a time of great upheaval in Mexico (1531), Jesus' Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego with messages of hope, and conversions began occurring at an astounding rate. By 1539, almost nine million had converted. Mary is Jesus' first and best disciple to bring the message of hope and salvation.

"Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"

(2 Corinthians 4:6).

Add peace to Advent this year

There is no denying that it may be more challenging to find peace and joy during Advent this year, given all

that's happening around the world. Still, we know that the world isn't where we find our joy. Instead, try modeling your family celebration after the first Christmas to find more peace and joy this year.

Sweep the inn.
Jesus chose lowly
circumstances for His birth to

encourage detachment from worldly goods. Together, choose clothing, gifts, and toys in good condition that you don't truly need and donate them to people who do. Then limit the number and value of gifts you give. This will free up attention and affection for

what really matters.

Select shepherds. Although the people watching the sheep in the fields that night weren't the

most successful nor the most popular in town, God chose them to greet His newborn Son. Children benefit from healthy, loving company. Accept and extend only those holiday invitations that will provide precious, loving time

together.
Ponder in your heart. When her remarkable Son was born,

"Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19) so she could savor the joy of each moment. Don't forget to savor time with your own remarkable family so that you can ponder every wonderful moment in your own heart.

Why Do Catholics Do That

Why do Catholics call Jesus "Emmanuel"?

"'... And his name shall be called Emman'u-el' (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is God and He came, not just to save us, but also to be with us. In fact, He promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).



Jesus is invisibly but powerfully present with us now in the Church, the Scriptures, the souls of the faithful, the priest celebrating the Sacraments, prayer, and, most especially, in the

Eucharist.
God is truly with us.

Make Christmas last ...

Christmas ends for some people when the stores are empty and the presents are unwrapped. For Catholics, the Christmas Season starts Christmas Day and ends January 8, The Baptism of the Lord. Let your Christmas joy last through the entire Season.

Stay decorated. Rejoice in the great mystery of the Incarnation. Displaying your manger scene until the end of the Season reminds your family of the deeper meaning of Christmas. Keep your Christmas lights up as a reminder that Jesus brought light to the darkness.

Host an Epiphany party. The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi and their gifts to the Christ Child, Host a party featuring candlelight, wonderful food, Christmas carols and hymns, and people who are a blessing to your

> Make a visit. On that first Christmas, Jesus came to us and remains in the Eucharist. If you have days off from work and school, consider attending daily Mass or Adoration. Keeping company with the Christ Child is the gift that He desires from us.

SCTIDIUTE Luke 2:22-40, God **TON** fulfills His promises

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who did what their faith required to celebrate and thank God for the birth of their son. They couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, instead presenting two doves or pigeons, To the uninformed observer. lesus' birth was unremarkable and His family quite ordinary.

Yet, Simeon immediately recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord's presence in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit and gave thanks to God. Her faith in

God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of heaven.

What can a parent do? Teach children to look for lesus in the world and to pray to Him often. Tell them

the Holy Spirit will reveal the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be with Him forever.



December 3 - First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His second coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 9 - St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak (tilma) retained the miraculous image of the Blessed Mother.

December 17 - St. Olympias (408). Born to a wealthy family in Constantinople, this holy widow devoted her large fortune to caring for the poor and supporting her friend, St. John Chrysostom, in his work.

December 31 – The Holy Family (1st century). We celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph three people who lived for God. By their love and support of one another the Holy Family is a model for all

Christian

families.

I lost my job during the pandemic and fortunately got another one, but at a much lower pay rate. I am

grateful that my new job allows us to pay the important bills and even save some, but it doesn't allow for extras. As Christmas

approached last year, we explained to the children that there were going to be fewer gifts under the tree and why, and asked them to pare down their Christmas lists.

The girls spent a lot of time going over their requests, but they didn't seem to be upset. One night at dinner, they handed their lists to me and each one had just three gift requests. Chris explained that if three gifts were good enough for Jesus, three gifts were good enough for us. What they really wanted was family time. We agreed. And Christmas turned out to be a joyful, blessed celebration of Love.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children Success Publishing & Media, LLC Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™ (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax http://www.partnersinfaith.com (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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2023 Family Advent Calendar

Christmas. Chairmas.	Light two violet candles nightly this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." how your family can help with upcoming preparations for Christmas. 17 Gaudete Sunday Light two violet candles and one rose one for joy. Have a small treat to Place a candle in the
—	
	Put a vase of flowers before a statue of Mary and sing "Hail, Holy Queen" to celebrate.
	<u> </u>
or her that day.	At dinner, ask person to shar way God bless or her that to
	At dinner, ask each person to share one way God blessed him
Beatitudes	Before an conscie
•	Cont Sen
7.10.E).	act Catholic R vices (877-HE CRS or www.

Reveal Advent angels!

|25 Rejoice!

Read about the good news the angel shared

in Luke 1:26-38.

After Mass today, place Baby Jesus in the manger and sing, 'Hark

Whishing of the second

firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for

them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her

the Herald Angels



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savier," which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Ath Annual Christmas Fair December 2nd & 3rd 10am-4pm

SWEET TREAT BAKERY BOOTH
FRESH EVERGREEN WREATHS
75+ ARTISANS GRAND 50/50
HOURLY 50/50 RAFFLES
PICTURES WITH SANTA
SWS CONCESSION CAFE
FESTIVE MUSIC HOT COCOA
UNIQUE GIFTS FOR ALL AGES

St. William the Abbot School Msgr. Thomas G. Leavey Auditorium 2001 Jackson Ave. Seaford, NY 11783

SWS SWEET TREAT BAKERY BOOTH SWS CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd & SUNDAY DECEMBER 3rd IT'S TIME TO BAKE!

Please help to make the bakery booth a success!

Calling all moms, dads and grandparents to help bake for our fair!! Baked goods can be sent to school with your child or dropped off on Friday, Dec. 1st until 6:30 pm or Saturday, Dec. 2nd and Sunday, Dec. 3rd after 9:00 am. Below are some suggested items to bake. You may bake what has been assigned for your child's grade level or feel free to bake your own specialties as well as ANY of the suggestions listed.

PLEASE LABEL WHAT THE BAKED GOODS ARE, ESPECIALLY IF <u>CONTAINING NUTS!</u>
Please no packaged grocery store items. Please ensure all baked items are cooled before wrapping.

Label any platters or dishes you want returned with your child's name/grade.

NURSERY/PRE-K

Home-Made Rice Krispie Treats Chocolate Lollipops Chocolate Covered Pretzels

2ND & 3RD GRADES

QUICK BREADS (Irish Soda, Banana, Zucchini, Cranberry) PIES (Pumpkin, Apple, etc.)

K & 1ST GRADES

Cupcakes
Brownies
Cookies (wrap 3 per bag)

4TH & 5TH GRADES

LOAF/SQUARE CAKES (Pumpkin, Coffee, Crumb, Pound, Lemon) PIES (Pumpkin, Apple, etc.)

6TH, 7TH, 8TH, GRADES

Cookies (3 per bag), Cupcakes, Cake Pops, Brownies, Quick Breads

Don't like to bake?? Help us by sending in Hershey's Kisses, Christmas M&M's, green/red gumdrops, candy canes, rolls of clear cellophane, clear cellophane treat bags, clear saran wrap, Christmas stickers or ribbon.

Any questions please contact any of the following: Louise Abrams at 631-827-5403 <u>luabrams10@yahoo.com</u> Renee Frawley at 516-359-2591 <u>renee.frawley@gmail.com</u>

Your help is greatly appreciated!! Thank you!!





Christmas Ornament Sale!

Order up personalized ornaments to support the HSA!!

Over 200 designs to choose from.

Guaranteed delivery by Christmas!

Orders are shipped directly to customers anywhere in the US - share with family and friends!

www.moesornaments.com
Use code SWAS to support our school!

Sale runs 11/1/2023-11/30/2023





DIY CHRISTMAS COOKIE

DECORATING KITS

From Mama's Custom Cookies

Skip the baking and get to decorating!

Option 1: \$20

6 Cookies (2 of each shape), 2 bags of icing and 1 package of sprinkles.

Option 2: \$37

12 Cookies (4 of each shape), 4 bags of icing and 2 packages of sprinkles.

Shapes Included:

TREE, SNOWFLAKE, GINGERBREAD MAN



Orders must be submitted by 12/5/23. Cookies will be available for pickup on 12/19 from 1-6pm in the Abbey

Questions? Email Lisa Walsh at lusch928@yahoo.com























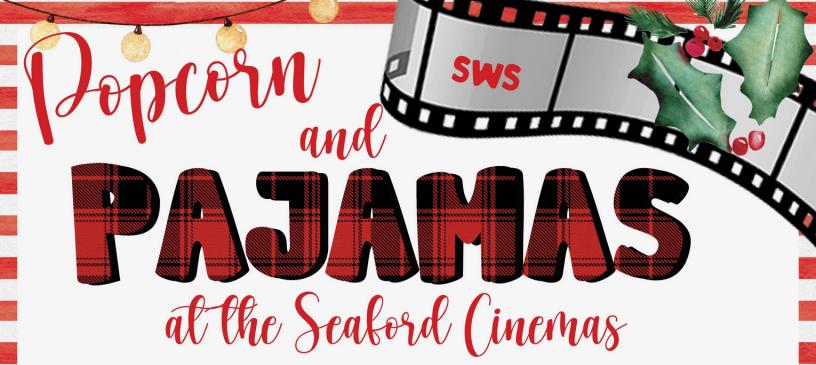
A FESTIVE TREAT TO BE SERVED DURING LUNCH ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

\$3.99

Ingredients:
Pllsbury Cake Mix
Pillsbury Frosting
Canola Oil
Eggs
Candy Melts
Candy Decorations
Sanding Sugar
Sprinkles

Order now through Thursday 12/14 on Boonli

Cake pops come individually wrapped for students to enjoy during lunch or bring home!

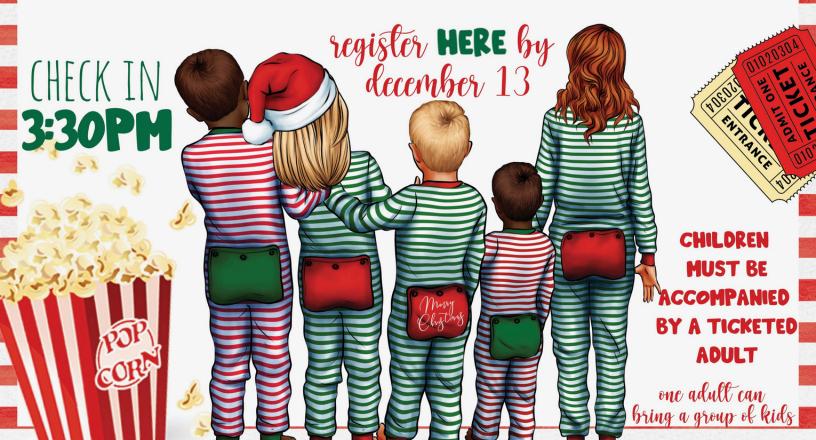


CHOOSE 1

ELF HOME ALONE THE GRINCH (2018) WEDNESDAY

20 DECEMBER PER PERSON

\$20 POPCORN & A SODA INCLUDED







SWS Family Fun Night at the New York Islanders!
Belmont Park - UBS Arena
New York Islanders vs. Washington Capitals
Friday, December 29, 2023
7:30 PM

Post-game group picture on the icel

Tickets: \$74 each* On Sale 11/29 through 12/15 Purchase tickets HERE

Ticket pick-up details to follow

*Please note that there will be an additional parking fee Questions? Email Pam Romanewicz at promanewicz@gmail.com

St William the Abbot School Presents

Spring Flag Football



5th/6th grade boys, girls, or co-ed 7th/8th grade boys, girls, or co-ed

Teams based on sign-up.

Cost \$170 per player

Sign-up and Fee due by 12/8

2024 Spring Season Tentative Schedule

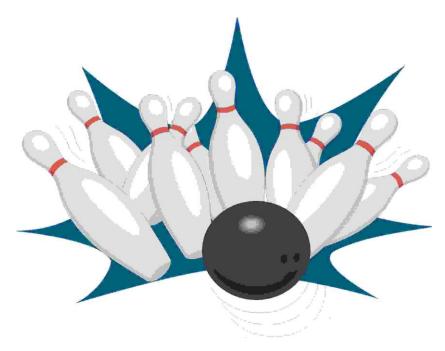
Saturday Mornings/Afternoons (8am - 5pm) with one Sunday

- Saturday, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 with one Sunday, March 17, 2024.
- Saturday/Sunday April 6th, 7th & April 13th (Playoffs & Championship)

PLEASE RETURN WITH CHECK OR EMAIL mss@stwilliamtheabbot.net

NAME:	GRADE:	SHIRT SIZE:	

Calling all Bowlers



St. Williams Co-ed Bowling Team
6th,7th,and 8th grades
Will begin 1st week of January

Games played on Fridays 3:30 – 5:00pm

League runs for 8 weeks

Unlimited bowlers are allowed but must sign up to play.

Email <u>mss@stwilliamtheabbot.net</u> if interested indicating your child's name, grade, and shirt size.

Coach/Chaperone needed