



ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL

"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

~Pope Benedict XVI

January 31, 2024

Dear St. William the Abbot Families,

We are fully immersed in our Catholic Schools Week celebrations, but even with all the festivities, we remain faithful to the mission of making saints of our students! We love our Catholic School and we thank God every day for the gifts we have received in His name. Following yesterday's Faculty/8th grade Volleyball Game, I gathered with the 8th graders to end the day in prayer, reminding them that in a few short months they will be leaving us and setting their sights on High School. It was a lovely moment I had with them, and I ask you to keep them in your prayers, that they might seek God first in all they do, that they are able to shut out the noise that surrounds them in this troubled world, and that they remain true to the values that you, their parents, have instilled in them. God bless the Class of 2024!

Catholic Charities will be visiting with us tomorrow, and we couldn't be happier to welcome this wonderful organization to our school. Director of Communications and Development Danielle Campbell (formerly of News 12), will meet with our 3rd-5th graders to share the great work done by Catholic Charities, and our students will also have the opportunity to make cards for Senior Citizens involved in the Catholic Charities "Meals on Wheels" program. We are asking our 3rd-5th graders to come to school in full uniform for photos that will be taken, as well as student interviews, and following the presentation, they are welcome to change into their Jerseys for "Soup"er Bowl Day! We are accepting food donations tomorrow for the SWA Parish Outreach. To cap off the day, our Middle Schoolers will be treated to "Bagels and Bingo," similar to the Radio Bingo event held for parents a few months back. It should be another great day at SWS!

Exciting news! St. William the Abbot School will be marching in the Wantagh St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, 3/17/24! Please set aside a few hours for *Mass and Marching* on what promises to be a fun day! Wear the green to show your support for SWS! Additional information to follow as we get closer to St. Patty's Day!

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY ENVELOPE

ADORATION & ROSARY
FOR FAMILIES

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

PARTNERS IN FAITH

LITERACY NIGHT!
GR. N-2

VSC RAFFLE

PICTURE RETAKE DAY


STUFF A WOLF

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

ASH WEDNESDAY

TOMORROW'S HOPE
APPLICATIONS

 **PHONE**
516.785.6784

 **EMAIL**
ebrickers5651@stwilliamtheabbot.net

 **ADDRESS**
2001 Jackson Ave., Seaford, NY 11783



ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL

Please don't forget to register for Literacy Night, taking place on Leap Day, February 29, 2024, with our theme, "Leap Into Literacy!" The link to register can be found on the flyer in this edition of the Weekly Envelope. This event is for students in grades Nursery - 2nd grade. Hope to see you there!

The Tomorrow's Hope Application for families in need of financial assistance is now open and can be found by [clicking here](#). All applications must be made by April 30, 2024. Please make sure to apply before the deadline, if needed. Thank you!

We're getting plans in place for Lent, specifically collecting palms to be burned for the ash for Ash Wednesday. Please send your palms to school! Fr. Joe will lead our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the process of how and why they are burned, further deepening their understanding of their faith. We are blessed!

Happy Catholic Schools Week,
Mrs. Elizabeth Bricker, Principal

**PHONE**

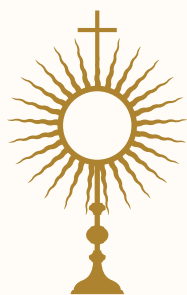
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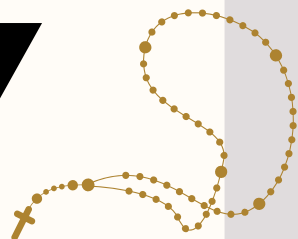
**ADDRESS**

2001 Jackson Ave., Seaford, NY 11783



JOIN US FOR...

FIRST FRIDAY **ADORATION** **& ROSARY** **FOR FAMILIES**



MUSIC | PRAYER | SOCIAL

Friday, February 2nd
6pm in the Church



FEBRUARY

Dedicated to the Holy Family

February 1st. . . "Soup"er Bowl Day!

Bring a can of soup for the Food Pantry and wear your favorite team's jersey!

Middle School "Bagels and Bingo" Event

Chess Club Winter Session #5

February 2nd. . .Teacher Appreciation Day!

11:40AM Dismissal

Spelling Bee for Grades 4-8

Parents of Participants are welcome!

Father-Daughter Dance: An Enchanted Evening!

7:00pm - 9:30pm

February 5th. . . Grade 8 High School Spirit Week begins

8th Grade Students may wear their HS Sweatshirts to school this week ONLY

HSA Meeting 6:30 PM

February 7th. . . Last Day to sign up for Literacy Night! (2/29/24)

Photo Retake Day

February 8th. . . Chess Club Winter Session #6

February 9th. . . Grade 8 High School Spirit Week Ends

11:40am Dismissal

iReady Data Day for Faculty

Father-Daughter Dance Snow Date

February 13th. . .Principal's Meeting at DOE

February 14th. . .Ash Wednesday

February 15th. . .Grade 1 Patriotic Mass 8:30am

Chess Club Winter Session #7

February 16th. . .Tomorrow's Hope Application Window Opens Today

Sports Night for Middle Schoolers!

Grades 6, 7, 8 Only

February 19th. . .Winter Recess Begins

February 23rd. . .Winter Recess Ends

February 27th. . .Trimester Exams Begin for Grades 7 & 8

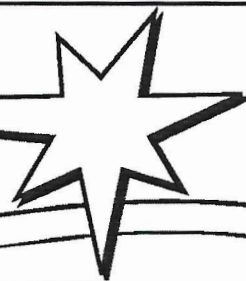
February 29th. . .Chess Club Winter Session #8 (Final)

Literacy Night! "Leap Into Literacy!"

Grades N-2 6:30-7:30pm



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2024

St. William the Abbot Catholic School
Seaford, NY



Thoughtful Moments

St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita was a young girl in Darfur, Sudan when she was captured and sold into slavery. Despite serving under cruel masters for many years, she remained sweet and kind. Eventually, the Michielis, who treated her very kindly, bought her. While in Italy, they introduced her to the Canossian Sisters of Charity. She joined in 1893. She spent the rest of her time there as a cook and sacristan. She also helped to prepare young sisters.



Unconditional love

Children learn about God's love by experiencing love from their parents. Children who feel unconditionally loved by their parents are less likely to fear failure or judgment and more likely to look at their parents as advocates rather than adversaries. They are also more likely to be open to a relationship with a loving God as Father.

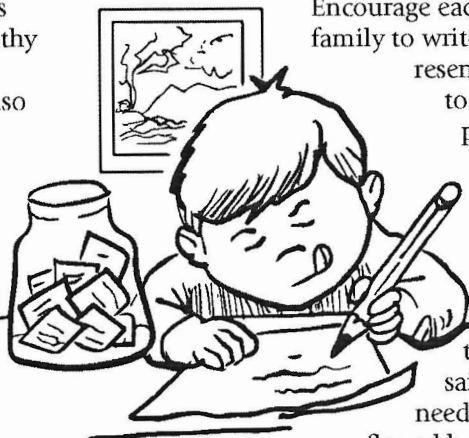
"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke"
(Proverbs 13:1).



Forgiveness leads to holiness

In family life, conflict may be commonplace as children learn to navigate relationships but learning how to forgive is essential to healthy development. Forgiveness is also essential for holiness. *"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you"* (Matthew 6:14). Teach children how:

Say the words. Encourage children to say, "I'm sorry," "I was wrong," when they have hurt someone. Asking for forgiveness starts the process of recognizing when they have transgressed and understanding that amends must be made. When someone says the words, immediately offer forgiveness by saying, "I forgive you."



Release grudges. Old resentments keep us from fully experiencing God's love and forgiveness. Encourage each member of the family to write at least one grudge or resentment they are ready to let go of on a piece of paper and put it into a "grudge jar." Then, take out all the grudges, rip them up, and move on. **Practice humility.** Humility reminds us that we're saints-in-progress who need God's mercy. We are flawed beings who make

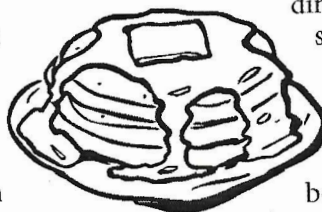
mistakes that require God's forgiveness. Offering mercy to others in recognition of this need is an act of both humility and hope.

Pray for each other. Praying together as a family opens us up to much-needed graces. Plus, it's hard to stay mad at someone for whom you pray!

Why Do Catholics Do That?

In the early Church, it was customary to give up rich foods and meat during the penitential season of Lent. This included milk, eggs, butter, cheese, and fat. On the Tuesday before Lent began, families would rush to empty the pantry of the

Why do Catholics serve pancakes on Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)?



forbidden foods by enjoying a dinner of pancakes (or in some places, fried doughnuts). In several countries, it is even called "Pancake Tuesday." It was meant to be one final celebration of feasting before the Lenten fast.

The positive power of penance

Children of all ages know that if we make a mess, we must clean it up and try not to do it again. Penance is a lot like that – it helps us clean up our sin and avoid repeats. Help children appreciate penance.

Self-denial. Suggest small sacrifices that are age appropriate - skipping a favorite TV show, foregoing an hour of video games, or passing on dessert. Then suggest that the discomfort can be offered to God as an apology for past wrongs.

Acts of kindness. Our sin affects others,

so helping others also helps us make up for our sins.

Assisting a neighbor, volunteering at church, or showing kindness to a friend, can be offered to God as penance.

"Do I have to?" When you ask your child to do something he doesn't have to do and may not enjoy, remind him that it can be offered as penance. Visiting elderly relatives, playing patiently with younger siblings, doing homework without reminders are sacrifices that can be offered as penance.



Scripture LESSON

Mark 9:2-10, Transformation, not restoration

Ancient Jews imagined that the Messiah would free Israel to be the kind of people it already was with the religion and structure it already had. After all, God had set Moses aside as the lawgiver and liberator, and Elijah was the first great prophet to foretell the coming of Christ. The Messiah was predicted to be a kind of repairman to restore it all.

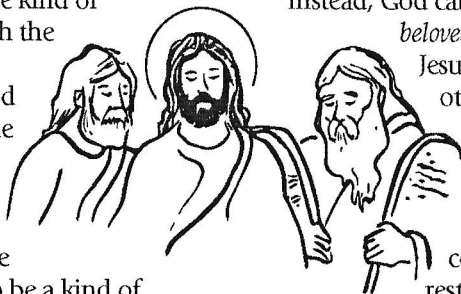
So, when Jesus was transfigured with Moses and Elijah, the apostles figured God was revealing Him as the expected Messiah. Peter thought he was complimenting Jesus by offering to build tents for each of them, putting Jesus on

the same level as Moses and Elijah.

Instead, God called Jesus, "*my beloved Son*," exalting Jesus above every other human hero.

What can a parent do? Jesus' apostles thought He had come simply to restore Israel, but

Jesus came to transform us and give us new life. The Transfiguration was to prepare Jesus' followers for a surprising truth: He would accomplish this victory by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead, thus conquering death itself.



Feasts & Celebrations

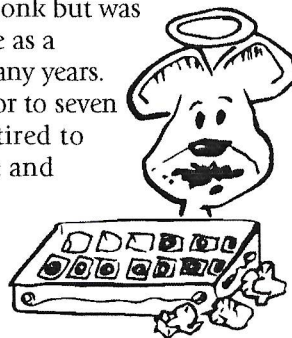
February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord. In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior.

February 2 – St. Catherine of Ricci (1590). Against her father's wishes, St. Catherine gave up her wealthy life and joined the Dominicans when she was twelve. She received visions of the Lord's Passion, which she experienced every Friday.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday. The

first day of Lent. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead, as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

February 21 – St. Peter Damian (1072). St. Peter Damian became a disciplined monk but was called to serve as a bishop for many years. He was advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.



Parent TALK

I had stopped praying. My father had a heart attack last summer and I was helping Mom care for him while working and caring for my own family. Then my father-in-law was diagnosed with lung cancer and needed care. Finally, Ken lost his job for the second time in three years and we had used up our savings the first time. Obviously God wasn't listening.

A few nights later I overheard our ten-year old saying her prayers asking God for help. She ended with, "Thanks for listening. Amen." Then she went to sleep. Standing outside her room, I realized Kara didn't tell God what to do. She asked for help, trusted that it would come, and left it to God.

I prayed for the first time in weeks and ended with, "Thanks for listening. Amen." I realized God is always listening. I was the one who had stopped talking.



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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Family Lent Calendar 2024

 = a day of fasting and abstinence from meat  = a day of abstinence from meat.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February "Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).			14 Ash Wednesday Attend Mass and wear the ashes all day as a sign of penance. 	15 Help children choose Lenten offerings that are meaningful and do-able.	16  Have meatless meals today. Pray for those who can't have meat as a regular part of their diets.	17 Pick a patron saint for Lent to pray for your family until Easter.
18 "Bury the Alleluiah." Write the word, "alleluia," on a piece of paper. Put it in a bag and bury it in the ground until Easter.	19 Resolve to only use kind words today.	20 Pick a person or situation in the news and pray for them at dinner.	21 Put out an empty "Donations" box. Fill it with unused clothes or toys in good condition throughout Lent.	22 St. Peter's Chair Offer extra prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father.	23  Attend a Stations of the Cross service or pray through the Stations together at home. Find them here: www.usccb.org .	24 Set out a "Lenten good deed jar" and add a jelly bean every time someone does a good deed. Enjoy at Easter.
25 After Mass, stay and light a candle for someone who passed away recently.	26 At dinner, have everyone name one thing for which they're grateful.	27 Check out Catholic Relief Services and see if you can help support any of their projects at: https://www.crs.org .	28 Practice patience -- a much-needed form of almsgiving.	29 Enjoy pretzels -- a traditional Lenten snack because they were originally shaped into crossed 'prayer' arms.	1 March  Attend daily Mass together or make time later today to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.	2 Pray a family Rosary together in honor of Mary's Immaculate Heart.
3 After Mass, go over the homily with children. Discuss practical ways to "clean the temple" of your hearts.	4 Stop by the parish office and ask if there are any upcoming events you can volunteer to help with.	5 Encourage children to give up a favorite toy or game -- just for today, just for God.	6 Tonight, have everyone think of someone they don't get along with and share three good things about them.	7 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together for souls in need. See details here: www.thedivinemercy.org .	8  Attend a parish fish fry together.	9 Show Jesus you're trustworthy and work on a project you've been putting off.
10 Laetare Sunday Go out for a small treat to celebrate the midpoint of Lent.	11 Encourage everyone to refresh any Lenten commitments.	12 Look for signs of God's love and presence today. Have everyone share two of them at dinner.	13 Prepare souls for Easter! Do an examination of conscience, using the Ten Commandments or Eight Beatitudes as a guide.	14 Encourage everyone to do an extra chore and offer it for the souls in Purgatory.	15 Family Night  Take the phone off the hook and turn off the TV. Play board games and spend time together.	16 Go to Confession as a family and experience God's mercy.
17 Offer special prayers for catechists and anyone else who teaches the Faith.	18 Go for a walk together and look for signs of Spring.	19 St. Joseph's Day Today is a solemnity! See if your parish has a "St. Joseph's Table" or enjoy pastries at home to celebrate.	20 Holy Week and Easter are busy times for parishes. Offer prayers for the priests and parish staff.	21 Bring your donations box to its destination.	22  Have a screen fast (from recreational use) from noon to 3, honoring the time Jesus hung on the Cross.	23 The King is coming! Tidy up the house to prepare for the holiest week of the year.
24 Palm Sunday Display palm branches -- signs of victory -- around the images of Jesus in your home to mark the start of Holy Week.	25 At dinner, offer extra prayers for everyone coming into the Church at Easter.	26 Go on a water fast today. Drink only water and pray for those for whom accessible drinking water is difficult.	27 Get up 15 minutes early to pray as a family.	28 Holy Thursday Attend a Holy Thursday liturgy or read John 13:1-11. What would you say if Jesus offered to wash your feet?	29 Good Friday  Pray the Stations of the Cross together, recalling Jesus' greatest act of love for us.	30 Holy Saturday Light a candle and renew your baptismal vows together as a family.



NURSERY TO GRADE 2

ANNUAL LITERACY NIGHT

LEAP INTO LITERACY

UPGRADE THE POWER OF READING AND IGNITE IMAGINATIONS



February 29, 2024

6:30 - 7:30 PM

\$10 per child / \$15 a family

1 adult per child (twins may work together)

Attire: Athletic - track suit, joggers, sweats, etc.

Registration closes on 2/7/24

LATE REGISTRATIONS
WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED

[REGISTRATION!](#)



PICTURE DAY IS COMING!

¡YA LLEGA EL DÍA DE LA FOTO!

Wednesday, February 07, 2024

St. William The Abbot School Retake Day!



Scan to order!

¡Echa un vistazo para encargar!



How it Works:



Pre-order today on
mylifetouch.com
using your Student ID or
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Students are
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Orders will be sent home
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Cómo funciona: Encarga de manera anticipada en mylifetouch.com usando tu ID de estudiante o la ID del Día de la Foto. Los estudiantes son fotografiados el Día de la Foto. Los pedidos serán enviados a tu casa con tu estudiante después del Día de la Foto.

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¿Preguntas? Comunícate con nuestro Centro de Ayuda en lifetouch.com/support-us. Selecciona Fotografía Escolar K-12 para recibir asistencia.



HELP SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL!

VSC RAFFLE

1st Prize: \$7,500

2nd Prize: \$2,500

3rd Prize: \$1,000

10 additional prizes at \$250 each

REMINDER: Participation in the VSC raffle, by buying or selling 8 tickets, fulfills the fundraising portion of the Volunteer Service Credit program for the current school year.

Even if you are not participating in the program, we encourage all families to participate in the raffle!

Tickets due back by 3/25/24 | Drawing will take place on 4/25/24

Tickets are numbered and will NOT be replaced. Please keep them in a safe place!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR SWS

STUFF A WOLF



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH

MUSIC 🐾 CRAFTS 🐾 PICTURES
SNACKS 🐾 ACTIVITIES

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

6:00PM

ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL

\$40 PER WOLF

CLICK **HERE** TO REGISTER

BY FEBRUARY 14TH

WEAR GRAY
MAROON
WHITE
BLACK





The Feast of St. Blaise

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 3RD**

**BLESSING OF THROATS
AT 8:30AM MASS**



Blaise was of noble birth. He went on to become a physician, was educated in the Catholic faith, and eventually became Bishop of Sebastia, a city in Turkey. Blaise was martyred in 316 AD for the crime of being a Christian.

We know more about the devotion to Saint Blaise than we know about the saint himself. Legend has it that a mother came to Blaise with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat as he was being lead to jail after refusing to renounce his faith. Blaise was able to save the boy.

St. Blaise is often depicted with candles, as when he reached his prison, a woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

He is the Patron Saint of infants, builders, physicians, veterinarians, and those with throat ailments.





ADULT MEN ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US AT THE

Men's Prayer Group

SATURDAYS
FEB 3 - MAR 23
AT 6:30AM
IN THE ABBEY

stwilliam.org





Ash WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

**Masses with
Ash Distribution:
7am, 9am, 7pm**

**Continuous
Ash Distribution:
10am - 5pm**

**DID YOU KNOW THE ASH FOR ASH WEDNESDAY IS MADE BY
BURNING PALMS FROM LAST PALM SUNDAY?**

**PALMS CAN BE LEFT IN THE BASKETS AT THE CHURCH
ENTRANCES AND SCHOOL LOBBY BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH.**





RUN FOR



**TOMORROW'S
HOPE®**
FOUNDATION

5K
& FUN RUN

PROFESSIONALLY
TIMED BY **elitefeats** 

Saturday, March 23, 2024
St. Joseph School, Garden City, NY

OPEN TO EVERYONE
AWARD CATEGORIES BY AGE + SPECIAL AWARDS
EVERY FUN RUN PARTICIPANT GETS A PRIZE



Register today at
<https://events.elitefeats.com/24tomorrow>



9th Annual Run for Tomorrow's Hope

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Thank you for your consideration in supporting the 2024 Run for Tomorrow's Hope!

- *Founded in 2016, the Run for Tomorrow's Hope is Long Island's largest family-friendly athletic event supporting Catholic schools!*
- *The Run for Tomorrow's Hope has raised **over \$150K** for Tomorrow's Hope Foundation over the last 8 years!*
- *The 5K Race is USATF Certified and included as one of three races in the Garden City Race Series.*

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EVENT SPONSOR

\$10,000

Top sponsor listing and signage, 10 complimentary race entries

DIAMOND SPONSOR

\$5,000

Prominent sponsor listing and signage, 8 complimentary race entries

PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$3,000

Sponsor listing, 6 complimentary race entries

GOLD SPONSOR

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SILVER SPONSOR

\$500

Sponsor listing, 2 complimentary race entries

BRONZE SPONSOR

\$250

Sponsor listing

For more information,
please contact info@thfny.com

