



## ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL

*"Behold, I make all things new."  
~Revelation 21:5*

January 3, 2024

Dear St. William the Abbot Families,

Happy New Year! I cannot believe we are back already and gearing up for Catholic Schools Week, beginning on Sunday, January 28, 2024 with the 10:30 am Mass. I hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful Christmas and is looking forward to health and happiness in the New Year. I must take this opportunity to thank everyone for the very thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts. This community's thoughtfulness never ceases to amaze! I am very grateful!

As mentioned, Catholic Schools Week begins in a few weeks, and we are planning for another celebration of SWS and the wonderful work done at all Catholic Schools across the Diocese and the nation. A formal schedule of events will be included in next week's Weekly Envelope. Please be on the lookout! The Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball T-shirts are available for purchase on the school website ONLY THROUGH Sunday, January 7, 2024. Don't miss out...[ORDER HERE](#).

Our annual *Early Childhood Evening* is next Thursday, January 11, 2024, from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Registration for the event is NOT REQUIRED. Please share this information with any friends or family members who may be interested in learning more about our Nursery (3 y/o), Pre-Kindergarten, (4 y/o), or Kindergarten (5 y/o) programs. September classes are already filling up, so please make sure to apply online for admission at [stwilliamtheabbot.net](http://stwilliamtheabbot.net) today!

A YES, YES, YES goes out to the SWS HSA and Mrs. Pam Romanewicz for planning what is hopefully a new tradition, Family Night at the NY Islanders. The Islanders earned a 5-1 victory over the Capitals, and SWS families had the opportunity to take a group photo on the ice. It was so cool (no pun intended) to look up and see UBS Arena from the perspective of the players. Thanks to all who attended!

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## ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL

We are pleased to add a Winter Session for Chess Club, which starts this Thursday, January 4, 2023. [Registration is still open and can be accessed here.](#) The Chess Club has proven to be a great hit with our students, so why not give it a try?

I close my letter today with sad news. Over the Christmas Recess, Fr. Joe's dad, Mr. Thomas V. Fitzgerald, Jr., passed away following a long illness. We pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. Fitzgerald and for the comfort of the Fitzgerald Family during this very difficult time. I must also share sad news that former SWS faculty member, Mrs. Geraldine Posch, passed away last month. Mrs. Posch was a kind and gentle soul, and we pray for the comfort of her family.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Peace,  
Mrs. Elizabeth Bricker, Principal



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# January *beginnings and endings*

January 3 . . . School Re-Opens

January 4 . . . Chess Club Winter Session #1

January 5 . . . Pioneer Sports Winter Session #4 Grades K-5

January 11. . . Chess Club Winter Session #2

HSA Meeting ~ 5:30 pm

Early Childhood Evening ~ 6:30 pm

January 12. . . Pioneer Sports Winter Session #5

January 15. . . Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - School Closed

No Drama Practice

January 16. . . Grade 8 High School Spirit Week Begins

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

January 17. . . iReady Math Diagnostic II for K-8 Day 1

January 18. . . iReady Math Diagnostic II for K-8 Day 2

Chess Club Winter Session #3

January 19. . . Grade 8 High School Spirit Week Ends

Pioneer Sports Winter Session #6

January 21. . . Feast of St. Agnes, Patroness of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

January 22. . . Algebra I Mid-Term Day 1

January 23. . . Algebra I Mid-Term Day 2

Book Swap for Charity

iReady Reading Diagnostic II Day 1

January 24. . . iReady Reading Diagnostic II Day 2

January 25. . . Chess Club Winter Session #4

January 26. . . Social Studies Fair for Grades 7 & 8

January 27. . . Feast of St. Angela Merici

January 28. . . Catholic Schools Week Begins ~ 10:30 am Mass

Catholic Schools Week Open House ~ 11:30 am - 1:30 am

January 30. . . Student Appreciation Day!

Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Game ~ 1:00 pm





# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

January 2024

St. William the Abbot Catholic School

Seaford, NY



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Born at Troyes, France in 1620, St. Marguerite desired early on to become a missionary. A friend introduced her to the mayor of Ville Marie (now Montreal, Canada) and, at his invitation, St. Marguerite traveled to Canada to teach the children of the colony. She was later joined by several women – all consecrated to God and devoted to teaching and Works of Mercy. In 1676, she gained approval for her order, the Congregation of Notre-Dame de Montreal.



### Fishers of Men

Some of the first apostles were fishermen working in the Sea of Galilee. The fish there were known for their quality and commanded a high price. Next time you eat fresh fish, remember Peter and Simon, James and John, the hard-working fishermen who left their boats to follow Jesus.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come"*  
(2 Corinthians 5:17).



## Shape children's hearts with virtues

A key element of Catholic parenting is to shape the hearts of our children, not just manage their behavior. One way

to shape a child's heart is to offer opportunities to grow in virtue:

### Modesty:

"Modesty protects the intimate center of a person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden"

(Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #2521).

Modesty awakens in youngsters a respect for the human person. Teach them to dress, speak, and take in entertainment that is wholesome, uplifting, and respectful of themselves and others.

**Faithfulness:** When children see that their parents are faithful to one another, for example, they intuit that

faithfulness or fidelity means to act in a way that honors a commitment.

Children may not always hear what we say, but they are influenced by what they see us do.

**Meekness:** Meekness is not timidity. It fuels self-control. St.

Thomas Aquinas cautioned against expressing physical anger because it makes anger outsized. Guide and model how to use meekness to manage anger. Meekness will help prevent evil from ruling actions.

**Charity:** "If I...have not love, I gain nothing"

(1 Corinthians 13:3). Charity is giving love without an expectation of receiving in return. Teach children to put others' needs first. They will find that as they grow in charity, they will be happier and more joy-filled.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

As a Sacrament, Baptism conveys grace and the "washing away" of sin and the "rebirth" of the baptized as a child of God. It starts us on the surest path to salvation: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will

## Why do Catholics have infants baptized?



be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Catholic parents, desiring the best for their children, baptize them as infants, believing it will give them the best chance of true joy in this life and eternal life in the next.

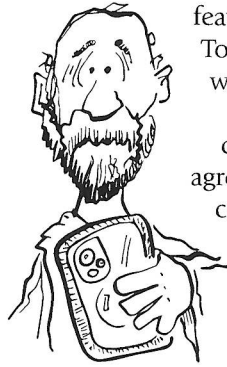


## If the saints had social media, what would they post?

Is there a “holy” way to use social media? Consider these suggestions from the saints:

**To friend or unfriend?** St. Teresa of Ávila cautioned that parents “be very careful whom they allow to mix with their children when young.” Although socially outgoing and fun-loving, she didn’t try to be liked by everyone, but sought the close friendships with those who encouraged her in holiness.

**“Kind comments, only.”** St. Philip Neri advised someone who gossiped to pluck a chicken and scatter the feathers in the wind. Those far-flung



feathers were like rumors – impossible to take back. Today, he would warn us to be careful what we post; who knows how many will see it.

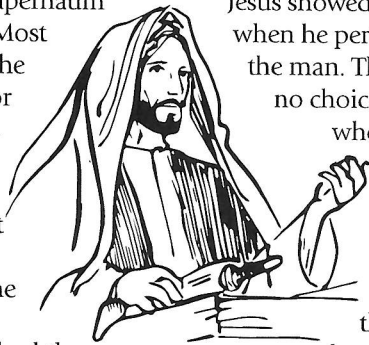
**Disagree, but charitably:** St. Thomas Aquinas debated often and won admiration, if not agreement, from his adversaries for his respectful conduct. “We must love [those who agree and disagree]...for they help us in the finding of [the truth].” For those in online debates, he would advise all to respond with charity and humility while still seeking the Truth.

### Scripture LESSON

## Mark 1:21-28, Jesus is no ordinary teacher

In this Gospel reading, we read that Jesus entered the synagogue at Capernaum with His apostles to teach. Most teachers would draw from the writings of other scholars for authority, and would begin, “Thus says the Lord...” but Jesus said, “I tell you...” As God, He already knew what the Scriptures meant without leaning on someone else’s teaching.

Jesus taught as one who had the authority of God and that astonished His listeners. Even the unclean spirits who were torturing a man at the synagogue recognized Jesus as “the Holy One of Israel.” Clearly, this was



no ordinary teacher!

Jesus showed His authority again when he performed an exorcism on the man. The unclean spirits had no choice but to obey Him when he commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance.

**What can a parent do?** Jesus shows us that God’s power and love are greater than any evil. Teach children that they can talk to Jesus about anything that happens, good or bad. At the same time, stress that Jesus is God and deserves to be worshipped and obeyed.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**January 3 – Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.** “...At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (Philippians 2:10). Today, a deep bow of the head at the Name is an accepted form of respect.

**January 7 – Epiphany of Our Lord.** Epiphany is Greek for “manifestation.” When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God’s promise of a savior.

**January 21 – St. Agnes (304).** St.

Agnes consecrated herself to God. Reportedly she was betrayed for being a Christian by a suitor whom she refused to marry. She maintained her faith and was executed as a result.

**January 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul.** Formally called “Saul” he persecuted the Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, saying, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:5). After that, Saul became Paul and traveled around the known world, preaching the Faith.



### Parent TALK

Our busyness was crowding out family time. Between homework, practices, and playdates, we hardly ever had family dinner or attended Mass together. One Sunday when my daughter expected to skip Mass for a soccer tournament, I realized we needed a reboot.

That Saturday night we gathered around the table. I lit a candle and announced that Family Day had begun. I said that God wants us to keep Sunday holy, so Family Day starts at sundown on Saturday and goes through Sunday.

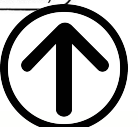
Now Sunday morning begins with church music while we dress for Mass. There are muffins or coffee cake made the night before so we can enjoy them and still observe the Communion fast. Then we attend Mass together and have a meal afterwards.

Then, whatever we do during the day, we do together. After dinner we blow out the “Sunday Candle” and feel ready to face the week.

### 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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# MS SPORTS NEWS

DECEMBER 2023



## **BOYS' BASKETBALL**

Boys Basketball began their season on Thursday with an away game against St. Rose in Massapequa. This game was a nail-biter until the end. They jumped out to a first-quarter lead with Jack Egan scoring 11 of the 17 first-quarter points. The scoring slowed in the second quarter as they trailed by two at the half. In the third quarter, St. Rose started to pull away but after a timeout, the boys came back to tie the game in the final quarter. It went back and forth with St. William's and St. Rose exchanging baskets. St. Rose would get the final basket to win the game 58-56. Jack Egan led the scoring with an amazing 36 points including three 3-pointers followed by Matthew Favuzza with 8 points and Kieran Morris with 7 points. Although they did not get the win it was a tremendous effort and start to the season by the boys.



## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



Girls' basketball is back! Led by coach Tony Pagliuca the girls have been practicing hard. With many first-time players on the team, they do have a lot of promise this season. It was a rough start last week with a loss to St. Mary's and a loss to Long Beach Catholic. This was not due to a lack of effort, but both teams were more experienced. This year's team is comprised of 6th and 7th graders with a ton of heart and grit. We will take heart and grit every day over size! With Coach Tony leading the way, we will see drastic improvement and some winnings in the future.





## **CHEER**

Cheerleading had their first halftime performance at the girls' basketball game on Thursday. They were amazing and entertained the crowd. Led by Diana Impemba they will be performing at many games for both boys' and girls' basketball. This year's cheer squad is Emily Devlin, Christina Impemba, Cora Migadakis, Isabella Bontemps, Gabriella Castel, Brooklyn Clifford, Anna Hutchinson, Mackenzie Maisano, and Julianna Nicol.

Keep up the good work and show that SWS Spirit.



**LET'S GO  
WOLVES!**



# CALLING ALL BOWLERS

**When: Friday, January 5, 2024**

**Where: Wantagh Lanes**

**Time: 3:45pm**





# HSA NEWS AND UPDATES

**Happy New Year!**

## **Upcoming HSA Meeting Dates**

Thursday, 1/11/2024 - 5:30 PM: **Executive Board Only**

Monday, 2/5/2024 - 6:30 PM: **Open**

## **Upcoming Events and Fundraisers**

### **January:**

Family Fun Restaurant Night

Middle School Bagels and Bingo

### **February:**

Father/Daughter Dance

### **March:**

Stuff-a-Wolf

Bagels with the Bunny

- **Be sure to visit the VSC site often to register for volunteering opportunities**
- **Have an idea, suggestion or feedback for the HSA? Fill out the form to share your thoughts! We'll be keeping this form open all year long:**

**[HSA Ideas and Suggestions](#)**





\$2.99 EACH.

FOR SALE ON BOONLI NOW  
THROUGH 1/14/2024 AT 11:59 PM



PRETZEL  
DAY

**1/18/2024**

Pretzels are from Philly Pretzel Factory and  
come individually wrapped. Pretzels will be  
served during LUNCH.



# SWS FAMILY FUN NIGHT

DINE-IN OR TAKEOUT AT THE TAP ROOM IN  
FARMINGDALE AND THEY WILL DONATE

**30% OF EVENT SALES**

TO ST. WILLIAM THE ABBOT SCHOOL!  
PLEASE SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!



EST ★ 2011

## TAP ROOM

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH | 12PM-8PM**

206 MAIN ST. FARMINGDALE, NY 11735

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### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:



#### DINE-IN

DINE- IN AND SIMPLY SHOW  
OR MENTION THIS FLYER



#### ORDER ONLINE

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MOBILE APP

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*Questions? Email Jill Kobel at [jtkobel@gmail.com](mailto:jtkobel@gmail.com)*

