



Sharing our Time and Talent in the Parish of St. William the Abbot

The 2017-18 Guide to Parish Ministries and Organizations

Liturgical Ministries

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir is a talented group of men and women whose primary commitment is to provide liturgical music for the 10:45 AM Mass on Sunday. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM in the church. Since the human voice varies in pitch, a choir can sing harmonies in different layers using four different sections of voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Adult Choir also sings at the Christmas Midnight Mass, the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, as well as at concerts and other special events needing music. The Adult Choir is also a social group which enjoys two yearly gatherings and an occasional “snack time.”



Adult Handbell Choir

This group plays the parish’s beautiful set of handbells for specific liturgies and concerts throughout the year. We welcome those who are interested in producing the wonderful sound of handbells. Lessons are provided. The Handbell Choir plays for special liturgies and concerts when the Adult Choir sings. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for washing and ironing the linens, which are essential for the celebration of Mass.

Altar Servers

Servers assist the priests at Masses, weddings, funerals, and other prayer services. They are responsible for the smooth flow of the parish’s prayer. Membership requires a prayerful student (from Grade 5 or above), who is attentive to detail. Candidates make a commitment to participate in our training program and to be present for their Mass assignment. The entire parish appreciates the dedication and professionalism of our servers.

Chime Choir

The parish is fortunate in having a 3-octave set of Hand Chimes, also known as Tone Chimes. Members of this choir are recruited from St. William the Abbot School, and rehearsals take place during lunchtime on Monday afternoons. The Choir performs at the school’s Christmas and Spring Concerts, as well as at parish liturgies and special events. St. William the Abbot students from Grade 1 and above are eligible to join. This group is excellent preparation for joining the Youth Handbell Choir.

Christian Family Life Committee

This group works to bring family-oriented faith activities to the parish. Many of these events are scheduled in conjunction with parish Masses and provide families with faith-centered liturgical and craft activities. These activities help families fulfill their primary role in the spiritual development of their children.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Eucharistic Ministers are specially trained and commissioned members of our parish who assist the priests and deacons with the distribution of Holy Communion at our parish Masses. Some ministers choose to attend further training to become “Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound.” In our parish they are then assigned to bring Holy Communion to

the frail-elderly, the infirm, the handicapped, or to those suffering from an extended illness. This is a very rewarding ministry for both the communicant and the minister. Training is provided by the Rockville Centre Diocese. To apply, please contact the pastor.

Family Mass Choir

This choir sings at the 9:15 AM Mass on Sunday, which places a special emphasis on families and their children. Consequently, some of this choir's music selections have a special appeal for children. Membership in the Family Mass Choir is open to children from Grades 1 to 12, and the choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 PM to 7:00 PM. As in other choirs, consistent attendance is important.

Folk Group

This group, which is open to young adults and above, provides both contemporary and traditional liturgical music for the 5:00 PM Sunday Mass. The Director is Mrs. Louise Sewall, and rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings. Instruments, such as guitar, banjo, flute and horn, are also a part of this group.

Jesus and His Friends

A wonderful opportunity on certain Sunday mornings at the 9:15 AM Mass for parents and families with very young children (a month to 5 years old – younger than Grade 1). During the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, the families with the very young children receive a blessing as they are sent forth to the Abbey for a special interactive homily and religious instruction. At the conclusion of the General Intercessions, all return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Information is always found in the bulletin.

Junior Lectors

The responsibility for proclaiming God's Word in the assembly is not a gift reserved solely for adults. Membership to the Junior Lectors is open to students who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Lectors

Readers are members of our parish community who assist at our Masses by proclaiming God's Word to the assembled community. The Word of God is an essential part of the Mass. When the Word is proclaimed and heard, it becomes the experience of the power and presence of the Living God in our community. Training is provided for all new Readers.

Liturgical Environment Committee

This committee decorates the church and other worship spaces for major celebrations, such as Christmas and Easter.

Music Ministry Office Volunteers

The task of preparing for Music Ministry events is quite daunting. With all the groups we have, much administrative work is necessary to coordinate events. Our office volunteers help us with various administrative tasks and answering telephones. No experience is necessary. Ages 16 and older are welcomed to volunteer.

Parish Liturgy Committee

Several members of our community gather regularly to pray and plan upcoming liturgies in our parish.

Seasonal Orchestra

Instruments add so much to the music we perform. Our Parish Music Ministry is always grateful for instrumentalists who are willing to share their time and talents with us. If you play an instrument and have good sight-reading abilities, please consider offering us your time and talents.

Ushers

The Usher Ministry is a group of men and women who serve the Church during liturgical events through a ministry of hospitality. Ushers represent the Church in a visible way, assisting the congregation both before and during the liturgy. Ushers give a warm greeting as parishioners enter the Church; they help with seating parishioners, they are available if there is a request for a special need, and they distribute the weekly bulletin.

Youth Handbells

Our Youth Handbell Choir consists of children from our school from Grades 4 and older who are willing to rehearse at lunchtime on Mondays as scheduled and perform at parish events, liturgies and concerts, as well as the Christmas and Spring Concerts in school. Near perfect attendance is a requirement, as one missing individual creates a problem for the group.

Sacramental Preparation

Baptismal Preparation Process

Parents generally contact the parish shortly after the birth of their child to arrange for the Baptism. Since the parents are the first and primary teachers of the faith to their children, they are asked to come to the 10:45 AM Mass on the first Sunday of the month, where their child receives a special blessing. Following the Mass, there is a preparation gathering. The Baptism Team member can assist at the Mass, preparation gathering, or the Baptism Ceremony.

In-Home Pre-Cana

In this ministry, married couples share their experience of married life with the engaged couples of our parish planning a wedding at St. William's. Sessions are held three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). Each session will begin and end with a group meeting at St. William's. Between these meetings, each scheduled team holds four sessions at their home with three or four of the engaged couples. Team members are not required to be available for all three seasons. Training is provided, as are outlines of the talks and handout materials.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is a process for those adults 18 and over who wish to become a part of the Catholic Church. If those wishing to become Catholic have never been baptized into any Christian religion, they are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. For those adults who have already been baptized into another Christian religion, they are prepared for Full Communion with the Catholic Church by receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist.

In the RCIA process, we also welcome those adults who have been baptized as infants into the Catholic Church but for whatever reason have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The candidates and catechumens meet weekly throughout the year with the RCIA team. The team is composed of members of the parish who pray together, share their own faith journey, their own relationship with God and their knowledge of the Church and its traditions. It is also a process for the families and friends of the candidates and catechumens, in which their own Catholic faith grows and becomes more important to them.

Wedding Rehearsal Ministry

The Wedding Rehearsal Ministry is both a rewarding and enjoyable ministry. Teams are assigned to a wedding rehearsal and assist the bridal party in their rehearsal. Rehearsals are scheduled on both Thursday and Friday evenings at 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 PM. A team commitment depends on the number of rehearsals each month and accommodates your schedule.

Education and Formation

Adult Faith Formation

Throughout the year different opportunities are offered which help deepen our relationship with God. These include the Parish Lenten Retreat, special Evenings of Prayer and Reflection, Scripture classes, faith sharing groups and book discussions (books of a religious nature). Current information can be found in the weekly bulletin.

Brownies/Girl Scouts

St. William the Abbot has an active scouting program for young girls. Our program ranges in ages from Kindergarten through High School. The mission established is to work together as a group offering service within our community.

Cub/Boy Scouts

St. William the Abbot has an active scouting program for young boys. Scouting at all levels is a leadership development program that uses outdoor activities, citizenship, and a shared set of values to build self-confidence, maturity, and independence.

Faith Formation

While Faith Formation always begins and continues in the home, another level of instruction takes place at St. William the Abbot in Grades 1 – 8. The Ministry of Faith Formation works cooperatively with families to promote growth and development in the lived experience of the Catholic faith. The role of Faith Formation is to journey with the family by providing formal instruction of the faith by the use of classroom instruction, prayer, special events and liturgies. These experiences, coupled with the lived faith experience in the home, help our children and their families grow in love of our Lord and our rich faith. Special programs are provided for children with special needs and situations and for those children who have waited until a later age to begin instruction.

Formal faith instruction is only one aspect of the faith journey of a child. Our faith is nourished around the Table of the Lord. Students and their families are asked to make a commitment to the parish faith community and its Sacramental life by attending Mass. Our Sacramental Programs provide occasions for family (intergenerational) learning through parent meetings, special activities, service commitment, retreats and parish liturgies. They are two-year programs.

Home School Association

The St. William the Abbot Home School Association objectives are: 1) acquiring an appreciation of Catholic Education; 2) promotion of mutual educational responsibilities between parents and teachers; 3) encouraging cooperation between home and school; 4) fund-raising efforts that enhance the total educational experience for children, parents, and teachers. Participants include parents and legal guardians of SWS students and members of the school faculty.

School Board

The St. William the Abbot School Board assists and advises the Pastor and Principal in the policy-shaping process by formulating and adopting school policies. The Pastor has the final authority to accept the recommendations of the Parish School Board. School Board members are elected for a three-year term. Elections are held every spring and board membership is open to all parishioners.

St. William the Abbot School (N – 8)

St. William the Abbot School, a Middle States Accredited School, provides a strong religious education teaching Catholic values and doctrine. The faculty's commitment to "Teach as Jesus Did" fosters in our students a deep sense of their own dignity, an appreciation of the sacredness of human life, and the need to love and respect God, themselves, and others. Academic programs grounded in basic skills challenge our students to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, and responsible members of the community. We strive to educate the "total child" in a community-centered and spiritually-based atmosphere.

Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry strives to provide a variety of opportunities and experiences to draw young people into active, responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community and the greater Church.

Youth Ministry seeks to help young people, Grades 6 to 12, to share their gifts, grow in life skills, develop a positive self-image, develop respect for differences, give to those in need, participate in the Sacraments, develop a personal spirituality and prayer life, apply Catholic faith to daily life, participate in the Church and develop a personal relationship with Jesus. All of this is done in a fun and faithful way. Youth Ministry also sponsors a monthly Youth Mass on Sunday evenings with contemporary music.



**WALK THEN,
AS CHILDREN
OF LIGHT,
FOR THE FRUIT
OF THE
LIGHT IS IN
GOODNESS
AND JUSTICE
AND TRUTH**

Parish Social Ministry

Parish Social Ministry (PSM/Outreach) Coordinators and Volunteers are *companions on the journey with people in need*. All who minister in PSM/Outreach Programs reflect the Gospel in action through their faithful dedication to walking with individuals and families struggling in these economic times and in advocating for justice and policies that respect the life, dignity and rights of all people. **Parish Social Ministry encompasses the following Social Ministries:**

Abbot Innkeepers

Volunteers meet once a month in the Abbey to prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for homeless men, women and children. Sandwiches are delivered to the **Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN)** located in Hempstead. The INN operates 17 soup kitchens on Eastern Long Island. Volunteers are also needed to pick up the supplies from local food warehouses.

Advocacy

Work one-on-one with an individual or family whose needs exceed our resources. Information and referrals are made to the appropriate local, county, state or federal agency. On-going support and follow-up are available.

Direct Services

Shoppers – Shop for or with people unable to shop on their own.

Special Projects – Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

Transportation - Transport people to and from medical and other appointments within the local area.

Social Action/Social Justice

Become involved with current issues that affect our Church, Community and Country. Take action by attending and planning informative meetings, become aware of issues and prepare petitions to our local, state and federal representative. Advocate for justice for all God's children.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Women and men volunteers who collaborate with Social Ministry in providing direct services and assessing needs. Confidentiality is assured in assisting individuals and families in need.

Support Groups

The Abbot Seniors are women and men that gather bi-monthly to enhance the social dimension of this club. During the year, additional activities and outings are planned. The Abbot Seniors is open to anyone over 55 and looking to enjoy a pleasant and relaxing time with newfound friends.

Bereavement Ministry – Grief is a natural response to death. Each individual responds to her or his own grief individually. Trained volunteers offer support and acceptance to individuals who have lost a loved one through death.

Consolation Ministry provides personal contact, warmth, and outreach to people at the time of a death in their family when it is most needed. Assist with the Funeral Mass preparation, be a greeter at the Mass, or bake a cake for the family.

Friendly Visitors – Friendly Visitors telephone and/or visit a homebound individual. The time spent with the homebound individual can include listening, sharing stories, playing cards, etc.

Moms and Tots – Mothers and children gather on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM to share experiences, ideas and friendship. The mothers focus on parenting skills and developing positive self-esteem in themselves and their children. Crafts and games relating to the seasons and holidays are incorporated into each meeting.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Come together with other members of the parish to crochet or knit shawls or lap blankets for parishioners who are ill or homebound. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. Members are available to teach those who would like to learn crocheting or knitting. Each meeting starts with a prayer for our parishioners.

Retired Nurses Ministry – Come together monthly with retired nurses and share your memories. Assist with monthly blood pressure screening for parishioners. Guest speakers occasionally attend the monthly meetings with informative information. Other volunteer opportunities to assist parishioners are available through this ministry. The group meets once a month on a Monday at 11:00 AM.

Spiritual Ministries

Adult Antioch Community

Antioch is a welcoming, spirit-filled Christian community, centered in prayer, celebrating diversity of gifts. Fellowship in this community begins with a retreat experience and continues with monthly follow-up meetings. As a community, we seek to share the love of God with others through prayer, affirmation, and fellowship.

Elijah Cup

A ministry of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and the Permanent Diaconate, by families, couples, or individuals. The Cup, a consecrated chalice, is currently used for the celebration of the Holy Mass on Sunday morning (9:15 AM). At the conclusion of the Mass, it is presented to a parish family to take home, where it is given a place of honor as a focal point for prayer each day. The Cup and carrying case with a Journal and prayers is returned the following Sunday in the Offertory procession. Presently, this is a very needed ministry throughout all Dioceses.



Morning Prayer Group

Everyone is invited. The Morning Hours from “The Shorter Christian Prayer Book” are prayed in the Church after Mass, Monday through Friday at 8:35 AM and Saturday at 9:00 AM. This is a great way to start the day.

Nocturnal Adoration Society

Pope John II said, “Authentic, effective and true apostolic action can only come from intimate communion with ‘the Lord’.” Nocturnal Adorers witness to the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. This ministry is for those who feel they would be doing God’s will by sacrificing one hour of time at night through prayer and adoration once a month. During that hour, we pray both publicly and privately in the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

Rosary Society

Members of the Rosary Society promote devotion to the Blessed Mother, particularly through praying the Rosary, while also meeting socially. New members are always welcome.

Small Christian Communities

Our parish has many small groups who gather together weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly to pray with and share on the upcoming Sunday Scriptures. They listen and share on the ways God has touched their lives and encourage one another mutually to go forth and live the Good News of the Gospel.

Women’s Spirituality

Opportunities are provided during the year for the women of our parish to deepen their faith and relationship with God. These include special speakers who address spiritual topics, our annual “Advent Tea” (focusing on specific saints, women in the Bible, etc.), the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary during Lent, viewing films, and much more. Format includes Prayer, input, reflection and discussion. Information can be found in the bulletin.

General Parish Organizations

The Abbey

St. William the Abbot has a weekly bulletin, which is distributed at the weekend Masses called *The Abbey*. It is edited by staff members and serves to keep the parish community informed of significant events that occur in our parish. Parishioners assist staff members as photographers and “reporters” by attending various parish events and offering their reflections on the event.

Bingo

Every Saturday evening our parish hosts Bingo in the school cafeteria. Teams are formed and expected to work every 12 weeks. Workers arrive at 6:00 PM and assist their captain in various jobs from selling games, calling or picking numbers, floor workers and kitchen help.

Blood Drive

Each year our parish holds a blood drive. This necessary ministry has helped thousands of people in need of blood transfusions. This drive requires preliminary work by our parishioners who organize the drive. Trained medical personnel do the actual taking of the blood, our parishioners host and support the event and do the necessary clerical work and phone calls.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

A group of parishioners who give advice and recommendations to the Pastor regarding 1) the upkeep and maintenance of the parish’s buildings and grounds, 2) projections for long-range planning regarding the buildings and grounds and 3) assistance with certain projects as they are carried out by outside contractors or volunteers. Members are appointed by the Pastor; people interested in serving should make themselves known to the Pastor.

Catholic Ministries Appeal Committee

Each year our Rockville Centre Diocese holds a special fund drive that helps both the diocese and St. Williams accomplish many charitable works. Our committee coordinates this effort at the parish level. Members are involved with phone calls, mailings, and other methods that help our parish meet and exceed our goal. St. William’s receives a portion of the funds raised through the Parish Sharing Program to support parish projects.

CYO

CYO is a parish-based organization providing various athletic activities for your youth. Our objective is to assist the youth in discovering and developing their athletic talents while helping them learn a sense of value and fair play.

Catholic children and parents can deepen their faith in Christ through sportsmanship, virtue and cooperation. Registration announcements are made through the Parish Bulletin. CYO fields teams in boys/girls basketball (June registration), boys/girls swimming (fall registration), girls’ volleyball (late November registration), girls cheerleading and boys’ baseball. Check the bulletin for specific grades and ages for each sport.

Family Festival

Every summer our parish sponsors a festival filled with rides, entertainment, food, games and raffles. A core committee works to plan the event. However, many generous parishioners unite to implement and make the event a success. The festival is a great way to meet fellow parishioners while having loads of fun.

Fathers’ Club

The Fathers’ Club of St. William the Abbot School is a volunteer organization whose goal is to assist in the maintenance and improvement of the school building and grounds. In providing the opportunity for fathers and other volunteers to use their time and talent to improve the quality of the school environment and maximize the use of the School’s financial and personnel resources, the Fathers’ Club enhances the education provided for their children.

The Fathers’ Club, under the guidance of the Pastor and/or the Principal of the School, does not engage in fundraising and is not compensated for the work they perform.



Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews, with the pastor, all of the revenues and expenditures of the parish church and school and makes recommendations as needed. Membership on this Committee is limited in number. Anyone interested in possibly serving on this Committee can make themselves known to the Pastor. Membership to this Committee is by appointment.

Garden Club

Members of the Garden Club maintain the flower gardens around the church and the Prayer Garden in front of the school. Volunteers are assigned specific sections to weed and maintain, and to work according to their own schedules.

General Office Helpers

An occasional ministry whereby parishioners join to help with parish mailings. Mailings are done after the 8 and 9 AM Weekday Masses.

Hospitality Ministry

In the spirit of fellowship, this ministry serves the Parish family a light breakfast after 9:15 AM Sunday Masses and refreshments at other celebrations. Our responsibilities include setting up, greeting and mingling, serving and cleaning up. Our schedule extends from September through April.

Pastoral Council

An advisory group of parishioners who meet regularly with the pastor to oversee the overall effectiveness of the Parish in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to our parish's Mission Statement.

Pastoral Council members are appointed to a three-year term. Candidates are surfaced through self-nomination and through recommendations by the Staff, Pastoral Council members and parishioners. Bulletin announcements notify people when the process of selecting new Pastoral Council members is taking place.

Respect Life Committee

The Human Life Committee works at promoting our Catholic pro-life teaching. The committee keeps the parish informed of current issues by publishing items in the bulletin regarding legislation, post-abortion counseling, crisis pregnancy support centers, weekly prayer vigils, and many other contemporary issues. The committee is concerned with all the various threats to human life from the moment of conception until natural death. We participate in the March for Life held in Washington, DC in January, the Mother's Day Flower Sale in May, the Respect Life Walk in August, and the National Night of Prayer on December 8th.

Social Events Committee

This committee seeks to build community among parishioners with family-friendly social events, such as the Parish Block Party and the Mardi Gras Pancake Supper. Membership on this committee is open to all.

Stewardship Committee

It is the generosity of many volunteers that makes the activities you have been reading about possible. The Stewardship Committee works throughout the year to help enable parishioners discern how best to share the gift of their talents and time. There is a Core Committee as well as occasional subcommittees who work to promote and coordinate this process in our parish.

Technology Committee

This committee is comprised of individuals from the Parish who endeavor to further the Gospel message through technology. Periodically during the school year, members will conduct "Photo ID Sessions" which provides ID Badges for the parish staff members/committee members and volunteers. These sessions are conducted at St. William the Abbot School.

Welcoming Committee

In the spirit of helping new members of the parish family feel at home, this committee provides them with information about the parish and acts as a friendly connection to the parish.

Please use this form to indicate your interest in or renewal of a Ministry

“Making a Return to the Lord”

2017 - 2018 Time and Talent Information/Recommitment Form

Name: _____ (Please use a separate form for each person)

Address: _____ Town/Zip: _____ Tel: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please place a check (✓) in the appropriate box and return to Church by June 18, 2017, or mail/drop off at the rectory.

Ministry	Interested in more information	Renew my commitment, am already a member
Abbot Innkeepers		
Adult Antioch Community		
Adult Choir		
Adult Faith Formation		
Adult Handbell Choir		
Advocacy		
Altar Guild		
Altar Servers		
Baptismal Preparation Process		
Bingo		
Blood Drive		
Brownies/Girl Scouts		
Building and Grounds Committee		
Catholic Ministry Appeal		
Chime Choir		
Christian Family Life		
Cub/Boy Scouts		
CYO		
Direct Services		
Elijah Cup		
Extraordinary Ministers		
Faith Formation		
Family Festival		
Family Mass Choir		
Fathers' Club		
Finance Committee		
Folk Group		
Garden Club		
General Office Helpers		
Home School Assoc.		
Hospitality		

Ministry	Interested in more information	Renew my commitment, am already a member
In-Home Pre-Cana		
Jesus and Friends		
Junior Lectors		
Lectors		
Liturgical Environment		
Morning Prayer Group		
Music Ministry Office		
Nocturnal Adoration Society		
Parish Liturgy Committee		
Pastoral Council		
R.C.I.A.		
Respect Life Committee		
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St. Vincent de Paul		
St. William's School		
Stewardship Committee		
Support Groups		
Technology Committee		
The Abbey		
Ushers		
Wedding Rehearsal Ministry		
Welcoming Committee		
Women's Spirituality		
Youth Handbells		
Youth Ministry		