

September
2026



Debbie Breckenridge-DRE
Bridget DiCello-Youth Director

Rev. John Hourican — Pastor
Rev. Mr. Scott Ewen—Deacon

Lisa Schmidt-OCIA
Mary Heburn-Women's Club
Jim Elliott-Grand Knight

SAINT WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Mission Statement

We the people of St. William Parish, accept as our mission: to love God with all our heart and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. We seek to know our faith, to live our faith, and to authentically teach our faith by word and example. We carry out this mission by lovingly promoting the traditions and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and through prayer, evangelization, and service to others; while always remembering that the primary mission of the Church is the salvation of souls.



from the desk of Deacon Scott



In August I had the opportunity to attend a Cursillo weekend at our beautiful retreat center in Dancyville. This was a wonderful time spent with Catholic men who wanted to deepen their faith. The time spent was a time to rest, pray, and focus on the love and blessings that our Lord Jesus Christ rains down on us daily.

One of the sermons from the weekend spoke to me. At the moment of our passing, during our particular judgment, God is not going to ask us if we attended Church. The question that He will ask is how we loved. How did we treat the widow and the orphan, how did we treat the immigrant and the homeless and the less fortunate among us?

During this Ordinary Time, we have been reading from the Gospel of Matthew. In this Gospel we hear from Jesus as he defines what it means to follow Him. Jesus instructs us to deny ourselves, pickup our Cross and follow Him. Jesus is calling us to be a Disciple, not just a believer. In the New Testament, Jesus never asked for believers. He asked for Disciples. In the Book of Acts, the word Christian appears only three times, but the word disciple appears 269 times.

This month, let us take time to rededicate our prayer life. Spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, be more deliberate in the time spent with our Savior. The early Church did not identify themselves by belief. They identified themselves by formation, imitation, and mission. The mission is clear. We are called to imitate Him. He never said that it would be easy, but Jesus promises that He will be with us until the end of the age. Let's lean into this promise and be a disciple!

Go Make Disciples.
Matthew 28: 18-20

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St. William Council 6321

September 2026 News



Blessed Father Michael McGivney

Hello, St. William Parish! Our Council has been busy as usual and while I won't give you a breakdown of everything we have participated in over the past month, I do want to take a moment to share something that is at the heart of who we are as Knights of Columbus.

When a man joins the Knights, we make four promises to him:

- 1. We will help men grow closer in their relationship with Jesus Christ.**
- 2. We will provide opportunities for all Catholic men to serve Christ in his Church.**
- 3. We will provide opportunities for all Catholic men to serve those most in need in their community in the name of Christ.**
- 4. We will work to ensure no Catholic family experiences unnecessary financial hardship due to the loss of a primary breadwinner or an underfunded retirement plan.**

I encourage all men at St William Parish that are not Knights to give the Knights of Columbus your consideration.

Members of the Knights of Columbus show their love for their neighbors by caring for those in need. We recognize that our faith in God and our Mission as Catholic men compels us to action. There is no better way to experience Christ's love and compassion than by putting our faith into action and helping others. We know that together, we can accomplish far more than any of us could accomplish alone.

As a Knight, you can count on the support and encouragement of your brother Knights as we work to make life better in the parish and community.

If any of this strikes a chord with you, please reach out to any Knight in our parish. We would be happy to sit down with you, answer your questions and share what being a Knight means us.

You can also scan the QR code below to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and discover how you can become part of this great brotherhood of Catholic men.

Vivat Jesus!
Jim Elliott



Knight of the Month



- Matt Rowan

Knights of Columbus QR Code

The Great Fathers of the Church

Last month, we reviewed the Church Fathers, who knew the Apostles. This month, we will cover the four Great Fathers of the Latin Church.

The Fathers of the Church were theologians and writers from the first eight centuries. They were learned men with great holiness. They also gave great authoritative witness to the teachings and beliefs of the Church and their unanimous acceptance of doctrines as divinely revealed has been regarded as evidence that such doctrines were so received by the Church consistent with the Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture.

Saint Ambrose (340 – 397): Ambrose's story is one of being thrown into the fire and coming out a great leader of the Church. Ambrose was a lawyer and the governor of Milan, Italy. During this time, Arianism was still thriving despite being rejected as heresy by the Council of Nicaea in 325. The Western Emperor decided that an Arian should become the bishop of Milan. The people of Milan protested, and Governor Ambrose led his military guard to the Cathedral to subdue the violence. When he calmed the crowds, the people then shouted "Ambrose or bishop! Ambrose for Bishop!". Ambrose at that time, was not baptized. The people would not listen to his means of dissuasion. He finally gave in, was quickly baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist and was ordained a bishop. He then began his life-long study of Christianity. He wrote books on theology, which became important works for the Church and continued to fight the Arian Heresy. Ambrose also helped his people understand their relationship to Jesus and the Church. When Ambrose was commanded by the emperor to turn over one of his churches in Milan to the Arians, he refused. The Emperor finally backed down after much praying by the people of Milan and Ambrose's arguments against the state interference in religious matters. During this time, he gave a sermon in which he said, "The emperor is in the Church, not over the Church; and far from refusing the Church's help, a good emperor seeks it." For all his work as bishop and his contributions to the Church with his writings, he is best known for his preaching and teaching that inspired a young man named Augustine to become Christian. His feast day is December 7th.

Saint Augustine (354-430): This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day, however, he heard about two men who had suddenly been converted on reading the life of St. Antony, and he felt terrible ashamed of himself. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend Alipius. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!" Full of bitter sorrow, Augustine flung himself out into the garden and cried out to God, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Just then he heard a child singing, "Take up and read!" Thinking that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the book of the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage his gaze fell on. It was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life. He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious orders, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too. On the wall of his room he had the following sentence written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervor right up until his death. "Too late have I loved You!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion. His feast day is August 28th



Pope Saint Gregory (I) the Great (540 – 604): Pope Saint Gregory I, also known as the Great, was the Pope of the Catholic Church between 590 and 604 AD. Gregory was born around 540 in Rome. The exact date of his birth is unknown. Gregory was born into a wealthy family. His great-great-grandfather was Pope Felix III who reigned from 483 to 492. Gregory was well educated and excelled in all his studies. He also became an expert in law. He excelled so much he became the Prefect of Rome, just as his father had been. Gregory was only 33 years old. After Gregory's father had died, Gregory had the family villa in Rome converted into a monastery. Today the monastery still stands as the San Gregorio Magno al Celio.

Pope Pelagius II, chose Gregory to serve as an ambassador to the imperial court in Constantinople. In 590, Pope Pelagius II died, and Gregory was proclaimed pope by acclamation. This was not something Gregory wanted, but he accepted, nevertheless. Gregory made clear he preferred the monastic life in a series of writings praising it. He also referred to himself as a servant of God. The habit remains in practice to this day and many clergy still refer to themselves as servants.

Pope Gregory was famous for the emphasis he put on missionary work. He sent many people out to bring many to Jesus and into the Church. Anglo-Saxon Britain was, at that time, still on the frontier of Christendom. It was Pope Gregory who dispatched St. Augustine (of Canterbury) to Kent in 597.

Pope Gregory made many changes to the Mass, some of which remain today, the position of the Our Father in the Mass remains where Pope Gregory placed it.

Pope Gregory was well known for his alms to the poor, and he gave quite generously of the riches donated to the Church by the wealthy people of Rome, including money and land. He made clear to his subordinates that their duty was to relieve the distress faced by the poor.

He ordered his clergy to go out into the streets to find and care for the poor in person. Assets of the Church were liquidated to provide income for alms.

Gregory is widely considered to be the first medieval pope, and he was a prolific writer. From the time of Gregory onwards, the people looked to the Church for government rather than the distant and indifferent emperors in Constantinople.

He died on March 12, 604 AD. He was immediately proclaimed a saint by means of popular acclaim. Saint Gregory's relics remain in St. Peter's Basilica to this day.

Saint Gregory's feast day is September 3rd.

Saint Jerome (343-420): Before he was known as Saint Jerome, he was named Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus. He was born around 342 AD, in Stridon, Dalmatia. The young Jerome was educated by Aelius Donatus, who was a famous Roman grammarian. From him, the young Jerome learned Latin and Greek.

Around the age of 12 or so, Jerome traveled to Rome to study grammar, philosophy, and rhetoric. It is likely that due to his training in rhetoric. By his own admission, he quickly forgot his morals and lived a loose life.

Fortunately, Jerome had as a companion, Bonosus, who was a Christian influence. His influence is part of what persuaded Jerome to become a Christian and change his ways for the better. In or around the year 366, Jerome was baptized by Pope Liberius.

Now interested in theological matters, Jerome set aside secular matters to pursue matters of the faith. He traveled with Bonosus to Trier where there were schools for him to gain ecclesiastical training.

In 370, he traveled close to home, ending up in a monastery at Aquileia. The monastery was overseen by Bishop St. Valerian. While in Aquileia, Jerome met Rufinus and the two men became friends. Rufinus was a monk who became renown for his translations of Greek works into Latin. Jerome himself was developing his skills as a translator, a skill he developed during his time in the Roman catacombs, translating the inscriptions on the tombs.

Following his time in Aquileia, Jerome traveled next to Treves, Gaul where he began to translate books for his own use. His goal was to build a personal library. In 374, Jerome went to Antioch, after making several lengthy stops along the way. While in that city, Jerome began writing his first work, "Concerning the Seven Beatings."

During that same year, disease made Jerome. During his illness, Jerome had visions which made him even more religious. Jerome went into the desert to live for four years, living as a hermit southwest of Antioch.

After he emerged from his hermitage, Jerome was quickly embroiled in conflicts within the Church at Antioch. This was not something Jerome wanted to be associated with. Jerome made clear that he did not want to become a priest, preferring instead to be a monk or a hermit. But Church officials in Antioch as well as Pope Damasus wanted him to be ordained. Jerome relented on the condition he would not be expected to serve in any ministry and would still be allowed to pursue his monastic life. He was subsequently ordained.

Making the most of his freedom as a priest, Jerome traveled to Constantinople where he studied under St. Gregory of Nazianzus, who was renown as a great theologian.

Jerome traveled to Rome in 382 for a council of the Church and met Pope Damasus. Following the council, Pope Damasus kept Jerome in Rome and made him his secretary. While serving as secretary to the pope, Jerome also promoted the ideal of asceticism to everyone around him. Included in this group were women of the city of Rome who wanted to live saintly lives.

Pope Damasus died in 384, and this exposed Jerome to criticism and controversy. Jerome was a sarcastic man of great wit. Eventually, Jerome decided to return to the Holy Land to escape the calumny in Rome.

Jerome wrote extensively defending the virginity of Mary, which some clerics dared to question. He also engaged in several debates against various other heresies. Jerome was easily upset, and even the venerable St. Augustine exchanged words with him. Eventually, Jerome and Augustine repaired their relationship and were able to correspond as friends and colleagues.

Of all the things that made Jerome famous, nothing was so legendary as his translation of the Bible. Jerome began work while he was still in Rome under Pope Damasus. He spent his entire life translating the scriptures from Hebrew and Old Latin.

Jerome died on September 30, 420. His death was peaceful, and he was laid to rest under the Church of the Nativity. His remains were later transferred to Rome. Saint Jerome is the patron saint of archaeologists, Biblical scholars, librarians, students and translators. His feast day is September 30.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)



Are you or someone you know interested learning about the Catholic Faith or becoming Catholic?

Were you baptized Catholic, but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation & First Eucharist)?

If you answered “**YES**” to either of these questions, please consider registering for the O.C.I.A. Process.

Sessions begin Tuesday September 8, 2025 @ 7pm in the school building

**For further information or to register, please contact the
Parish office at 901-872-4099 or
lisa.rhodes@stwilliam.cdom.org**

Women's Club News

September 2026

Ladies, did you know that when you register as a member of St William you are automatically a member of the Women's Club? Men, did you know that your non-Catholic wife is also a member of our club?

Are you wondering what the Women's Club does? Our services include second Sunday breakfast after Mass, assisting at the Millington Food Pantry, providing repast meals for grieving families, deep cleaning of church and kitchen, providing financial assistance when needed, and providing meals for seriously ill parishioners and their families. But it's not all work! We also gather once a month for lunch or breakfast, attend movie and theater productions, enjoy time together celebrating the holidays, and honor the St. William Woman of the Year at our annual Christmas party.

With active members ranging in age from 23 to 87, our club has both the experience and youth needed to succeed. However, we encourage and invite new members with new ideas to make our mission effective to our parishioners, church, and community. Are you that new active member?

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We'd love to have you join us.





Religious Education

PRE kicks off on September 13. It is going to be a GREAT school year! If you haven't registered your Pre K-8th graders, please register on line or call Debbie @ 901-359-7063. Class starts at 9:45 so please have your student there before that. We only get one hour with them a week so if they are late, it takes away from the little time we have. That said, class is over at 10:45. Our teachers are volunteers and some attend 11:00 Mass. Please be there to pick your student up so no one is hindered from getting to Mass on time. With PRE classes in between our Masses, each family has an opportunity to attend Mass before or after class. If they are in class, there is no reason not to be at one of the Masses. All students preparing to receive a sacrament this school year are required to sign in before the Mass they attend. Sign in sheets are in the stairwell to the choir loft on the right of the narthex. I strongly encourage all of you to have your student speak to Father upon leaving the Mass weekly so he can get to know who you and your student are.

We will be starting the year off in grand style with an all-classes Mass on September 20, at 9:45. All students will need to be in class that morning by 9:30 and they will go to Mass with their class. Parents are welcomed to join. After Mass, they will then have class from 10:45-11:45. Our Annual Parish Picnic will be held after the 11:00 Mass in the Family Life Center for all to attend. Our fabulous Knights of Columbus will prepare an awesome lunch for the parish free of charge. There will be games and activities for all to enjoy so plan on attending and getting to know some of your fellow parishioners. It will be a great time~ Hope to see you there!

St. William PRE

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

Registration is open- scan the
QR code to register online



Classes start Sept. 13th so register NOW

In-person registration 8/16/26 in the FLC between the
Masses. Call Debbie with questions 901-359-7063

ALL CLASSES

Mass



September 20, 2026

9:45 AM Mass

PRE Class will begin at **9:30** on 9/20/26
and end at 11:45. Students will attend Mass
with their class and then have their weekly
lesson after Mass.

**Parish Picnic/Cookout to follow
class...Please plan on attending**

YOUTH GROUP OUTING



YOUTH GROUP GAME DAY



ST. WILLIAM ANNUAL

Parish Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 20th

**Picnic lunch provided
by the church after
11:00 Mass**

Plan on attending

Fun & Games

for all ages

12-3 PM

IN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Every Monday
Sept. 14 - Nov. 9

**SEASON
2**

Family Life Center
Classroom

Discussion - 6:30pm
Watch Party - 7:30pm

To sign up and receive your \$10 book,
contact Shellie Teems at 901-230-0074.



SMOKED BBQ PORK ROASTS FOR SALE



\$60 Pork Roast

Please text Mark Miller at 901-870-3925 to
reserve your BBQ pork roast by Sunday, 8/30.

*Pulled Pork Dinner provided by the
St. William Women's Club*

SATURDAY, 9/5/26, AFTER 4:30 MASS AND SUNDAY
9/6/26 AFTER 11:00 MASS IN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Pulled Pork, Bun, Beans, Slaw, and Dessert \$15

IT'S TIME FOR BUNCO

Wednesday Night-6:00pm
September 2nd
Family Life Center

BRING A FINGER FOOD
TO SHARE AND FEEL
FREE TO BRING A PRIZE
TO DONATE

NEVER PLAYED! NO BIG DEAL...WE WILL TEACH YOU! NO
SKILL NEEDED! CALL DEBBIE BRECKENRIDGE WITH
QUESTIONS 901-359-7063

CAR WASH YOUTH GROUP

October
4th
12pm- 3pm

Come
support
our
Youth!

Youth arrive
at 10:45
to help
set up!



God Loves Me



Name: _____

Date: _____

The 12 Apostles

P	V	K	R	I	C	L	P	H	T	H	A	D	D	E	U	S
E	G	N	I	Q	V	L	K	W	Y	B	J	S	K	K	U	N
T	F	H	Y	V	P	W	T	V	H	I	D	Z	J	F	U	U
E	D	T	J	T	J	A	M	E	S	T	H	E	L	E	S	S
R	F	O	C	G	W	G	D	G	N	J	J	K	F	I	A	K
S	T	L	X	B	O	D	C	M	S	R	S	L	L	A	U	W
K	C	A	P	N	M	F	F	E	F	C	F	D	E	R	P	E
H	A	E	J	A	M	E	S	M	T	A	J	A	A	G	I	I
X	A	Z	J	U	P	P	Y	F	Q	A	F	Z	N	X	L	H
R	N	E	E	T	W	N	B	R	N	Z	L	Q	A	X	L	F
V	D	H	Y	T	V	W	S	F	H	Q	U	K	H	D	I	T
F	R	T	I	H	A	K	G	A	O	I	Y	G	T	Z	H	E
Y	E	N	V	O	U	D	T	S	J	C	Z	U	A	O	P	E
C	W	O	Y	M	D	L	Q	J	S	U	F	O	N	I	K	L
D	U	M	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	I	S	A	D	U	J	P
V	G	I	C	S	K	H	O	T	C	L	A	H	J	N	X	V
F	W	S	B	W	V	D	T	P	I	P	J	I	G	H	Z	G

Simon the Zealot

James the less

Nathanael

Thaddeus

Matthew

Phillip

Andrew

Thomas

James

Judas

Peter

John