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## Helping Your Children Belong to the Family

*By Father Tollefson*

*For the past several months we have been talking about St. Hubert's new mission and vision: St. Hubert Catholic Community invites you*

to Belong to the Family, Receive God's Grace, Strengthen your Friendship with Christ in the Catholic Church, and Share the Joy of the Gospel. This year our focus has been on the first pillar of the mission: Belong to the Family. While the adults of our parish are a major part of our community and we want them each to find their place as a part of our family, we cannot forget about the littlest ones in our parish. It is equally important that the children of St. Hubert belong to the family. After all, they are the future of our church! Below are five ways for parents, teachers, and adults in our parish to help our children "Belong to the Family" of St. Hubert.

1. *Remind children to receive the Eucharist with reverence.* The most powerful way children can "Belong to the Family" here is by receiving the Eucharist. If they are in first grade or younger, teach children about who Jesus is and why it is important to have him living in your heart, building anticipa-

tion for when they can receive Holy Communion for the first time. If they are in second grade or older (after they receive First Holy Communion), establish the habit of coming to Mass just five minutes earlier than you normally do to take the time to quietly pray and be ready to participate fully in the Mass.

2. *Participate in Children's Church at the 10:30 AM Mass and Hospitality for Children after Mass whenever it is offered.* One of the easiest ways children (and their parents) can connect is by doing art projects for children after Mass, while enjoying a doughnut or an apple and beverage. Hats off to Julie Lizak for her creation of this program. Children's Church is designed to provide a quality liturgical experience for children. Children in the lower elementary grades are invited to break out during the first part of Mass to hear the scripture in a way that children are able to understand and live out. Thank you to Amanda Arens for coordinating the Children's Church program.

3. *Enroll children in St. Hubert Catholic School, including Little Saints Preschool.* The preschool program has been expanded to include half-day, full day, and extended day offerings. As a parish and school, we are committed to offering education that leads us to preparation and formation in the sacraments and moral life.

4. *Register 3-6 year olds in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.* This program teaches children and parents alike how to notice and receive specific



life-transforming graces from God! Classes start in December. Please email Theresa at [Theresa.hefel@sthubert.org](mailto:Theresa.hefel@sthubert.org) for more information or see the St. Hubert website under the "Early Childhood" tab.

5. *Get to know the NET Team.* We are blessed to have eight energetic, joyful, and amazing young adults from NET Ministries helping us for a final year at St. Hubert. Having children getting to know them can be very formative for their development. Attend XLT Nights with your family, which are put on by the NET Team. Or sit with a team member at hospitality after Mass. Your family could also attend Open Team Prayer on Saturdays from 10-11 AM. Or encourage your teens to attend Open Youth Room on Tuesdays from 5-7 PM.

## Catholic Answers

### Common Questions about the Holy Eucharist *By Fr. Bruno*



*Our contemporary world has been marked by great documents, apostolic exhortations, encyclicals,*

*and great synods about the Holy Eucharist.*

Throughout Church history, many questions have been asked by both Catholics and non-Catholics.

Following are answers to some of the most common questions.

#### **Is the Holy Eucharist the True Body of Christ?**

Everything we experience in this world is within the realm of faith. It is impressive to see the strong faith of most Catholics in their belief about the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The behavior of many Catholics in the celebration of the Eucharist and in the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament outside the Mass prove the authenticity of the words of the second Vatican Council, "The Eucharistic sacrifice is the source and summit of the Christian life." (Constitution on the Church No. 11)

The celebration of the Eucharist is the summary of our Catholic faith. It enables us to participate in the divine life and to foster our unity with God and one another. In the Eucharist we see God's divinity and majesty present in his Son Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of St. John, the word of Jesus about the Blessed Sacrament emphasizes that he depletes himself

in the sacrament, "The bread which I give you is my flesh for the life of the world." (Jn. 6:51) In the Eucharist we receive the true Body and Blood of Christ as the spiritual life of grace so that we may attain heaven, our goal. As Christ says, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day." (Jn. 6:54)

#### **What is the meaning of the term "transubstantiation"?**

The term "transubstantiation" is derived from the Latin word "transubstantiatio," meaning change of substance. It is the complete change of the substance of bread and wine into the substance of Christ's body and blood by a validly ordained priest during the consecration at Mass, so that only the accidentals of bread and wine remain. (Modern Catholic Dictionary, p. 545) In his *Summa Theologiae* (IIIa, q. 75-77) St. Thomas Aquinas gives a classical synthesis on the question of real presence and transubstantiation. He explains that there is a substantial change and the persistence of accidents like bread and wine. After consecration, we no longer see them as ordinary bread and wine, but as the real Body and Blood of Christ.

#### **Does the Holy Eucharist absolve venial and mortal sin?**

The principal effect of Holy Communion is that it unites us with Jesus and strengthens our union with God. Although the Eucharist does not replace the position of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the forgiveness of sin,



receiving communion has the power of separating us from sin. Our union with Jesus in the Eucharist gives us the grace to avoid sin and brings us closer to God. Just as the natural food nourishes our body and restores lost energy, the Holy Eucharist renews our love for God and enables us to overcome the temptations of sin.

However, anyone who has committed mortal sin should not receive communion without going to confession first. Anyone who has committed venial sin can receive communion if the penitential act during Holy Mass is said well. Making a good penitential act enables a person to receive pardon for venial sins and to make a firm resolve to avoid sin. But you should confess your venial sins whenever you have the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Penance.

#### **Can a non-Catholic receive the Eucharist?**

The reception of Holy Communion is for Catholics who have prepared themselves in line with the Catholic tradition. According to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, "Because

Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are not ordinarily admitted to Holy Communion." We pray for the day when we can reconcile with other Christians and share in the unity of God's people through the Holy Eucharist.

Our brothers and sisters of other denominations who are celebrating Mass with us are invited to participate in the Communion processional, and receive a special blessing by crossing their arms over their heart as they approach the Eucharistic Minister.

## Meet Our Neighbors

# Meet The Rome Family

Brian, Tegwin, Abigail, Noah, Caleb, Olivia, and Sophia

Interview By Meghan Hathaway

### Beginnings

Tegwin and Brian are both originally from Iowa. Tegwin grew up in Boone and Brian is from Guttenberg. His parents were originally from Hibbing, Minnesota, and Brian always knew he wanted to return to Minnesota one day. He attended college at the University of St. Thomas and settled in Minnesota following his graduation. Tegwin moved to Eden Prairie in 1988 after graduating from Iowa State University. The two both worked for Emerson in Eden Prairie, where they first met.

### Family

Tegwin and Brian have five children. Abigail, 22, is a senior at Hillsdale College in Michigan where she is studying History. Noah, a college freshman at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, is studying mechanical engineering with an emphasis in robotics. Caleb, 16, is a high school sophomore involved with the 412 youth ministry team, and is considering joining NET Ministries. Olivia and Sophia, 13, are in eighth grade. They are in the confirmation program at St. Hubert, and also involved with dance and softball. They look identical, yet have completely opposite personalities. All five children have been homeschooled during the majority of their K-12 years.

The Rome children take their faith seriously and are not embarrassed by it. Tegwin and Brian attribute this partly to their involvement with the Catholic homeschooling group to which they belong which has been a big influence on their family. Brian and Tegwin also set high expectations for how their children should behave in different situations. They are involved in a number of activities, yet they are not overly involved.

They place a high priority on doing things as a family. Tegwin says that “A healthy dose of the Holy Spirit” has really been the key ingredient to their family’s faith journey.

### Faith Journey

Both Brian and Tegwin are cradle Catholics. While neither of them have ever strayed from the faith, Tegwin admits that growing up their catechesis was not great. “Boone was not a dominantly Catholic town, but there was a lot of support for practicing faith,” she says. “Most people went to church on Sundays.”

Brian grew up in a family of 10 children. He attended Catholic schools throughout his life and even enrolled in the seminary. “Growing up, we followed what the priest said. That was just what we did. I think we are in a better place with where Catholic education is today.” Brian and Tegwin agree that the Catechism is a huge benefit and a wonderful resource for their children. “Our kids know way more about the faith than we ever did,” Brian admits. “In many ways, we learn from them.” Prior to joining St. Hubert, Brian and Tegwin attended Pax Christi in Eden Prairie. When their oldest child, Abigail, was a baby they began attending St. Hubert simply because the Mass times worked better with Abigail’s feeding schedule. As they began attending regularly, they got to know some of the parishioners with children of similar ages. Brian joined the Knights of Columbus, and they began to get



Pictured from Left: Abigail, Olivia, Tegwin, Caleb, Brian, Noah, Sophia

involved. It was not until Abigail began preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, that both Brian and Tegwin decided it was time to delve deeper into their Catholic faith. Abigail would ask questions and responding with, “This is just what the church teaches, without context to back it up, wasn’t good enough for me,” said Tegwin. A big turning point in their faith journey was their participation in the Jeff Cavins book study, “The Bible Timeline.” Their hunger for the faith grew and they continued to learn more.

### Family Involvement at St. Hubert

Brian has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 15 years and is just completing his role as a trustee for the Knights. He has also been a parish trustee and is involved in the liturgical ministries as an usher. Tegwin is involved with Adoration and is a Eucharistic Minister. Caleb, Olivia, and Sophia all participate in the youth group. The twins are in the confirmation program and Caleb is involved in the

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COMMUNITY

# Prepare Your Hearts for Jesus this Advent

By Leon Narem

*St. Hubert has a variety of projects with which you can become involved this Advent season.* Many involve ornaments on the trees in the narthex. Each ornament will have the name of a nonprofit organization and a request for either a gift or a monetary donation to meet the needs of the nonprofit. All ornaments will be labeled and color coded by price range. We ask that you bring your items to the Giving Tree by Tuesday, December 13, with the tag attached. All monetary or gift card donations can be placed in an envelope with the nonprofit name and can be brought to the office or placed in the collection basket.

## Nonprofits on the Giving Trees

*Bountiful Basket* – This is a food shelf serving Eastern Carver County. We will collect laundry detergent, toilet paper, diapers and supermarket gift cards.

*Feed My Starving Children* – FMSC supplies packaged nutritionally rich meals to starving children all over the world. Volunteers, including many St. Hubert parishioners, manually assemble the meals. One of the challenges of FMSC is to find funds to buy the raw materials and to pay for shipping. Ornaments will indicate various gift amounts from \$10-\$100.

*Families Moving Forward Southwest* – This interfaith hospitality network of churches houses and serves homeless families in Carver and Scott counties. St. Hubert is part of this network. Some of the ornaments on the tree for this nonprofit will include gift cards for haircuts, gas, and Target. There will

also be ornaments with monetary donation amounts to support this effort.

*Loaves & Fishes* – This nonprofit helps feed the hungry. Gifts include warm blankets and cold weather kits composed of hats, mittens and socks for all ages.

*Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) of Eastern Carver County* – This ecumenical coalition of churches in Carver County works together to serve those among us who need help. We will collect personal care items, diapers, linens, toys, gift cards, and laundry items.

*St. Hubert Baby Sleep & Ride for Love INC* – St. Hubert provides car seats and cribs for this gap ministry.

*St. Hubert Birthday Closet for Love INC* – St. Hubert provides gift cards, toys, and monetary donations for the purchase of gifts.

*St. Hubert Outreach* – We will collect money to fulfill needs in our parish community and to serve our St. Hubert Gap Ministries. A Gap Ministry is an outreach that fills an unmet need or “gap” in community services that is currently not being met sufficiently by agencies, government, entities, or churches.

*Sharing & Caring Hands* – This nonprofit serves the poor in Minneapolis, where we serve lunch quarterly. We will collect gift cards for teens.

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# How to Keep Jesus in Advent

By Meghan Hathaway

*The month approaching Christmas can be a whirlwind time of preparation.* There are cookies to bake, cards to write, Christmas gifts to buy and decorations to display. Adding house guests, travel arrangements, and Christmas parties to an already busy schedule can create a month of stress and chaos.

As Catholics, we must pause to remember that the month approaching Christmas is Advent; a season for a different type of preparation - preparation of our hearts for Jesus. When we look at Christmas preparations from this perspective, our priorities shift and become more focused and clearer.

Would not we all like to enter into Christmas feeling ready for Jesus? We can experience a quiet, prayerful, joyful month as we prepare the way of the Lord by placing God at the center of our Advent. After all, He is the reason for the season.

On the next page are some ideas for traditions to incorporate into your Advent

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## COMMUNITY

*How to Keep Jesus in Advent, continued from page 4*

to help keep your focus on the meaning of the season. These can be done as family or individual traditions.

1. *Advent Wreath* – An Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches with four candles that represent the four weeks of Advent. The candles are lit one at a time on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize repentance and waiting, and the rose candle, lit the third Sunday of Advent, symbolizes the joy of Christmas coming soon. For more information about the Advent wreath and how to introduce this tradition into your Advent season, visit the Catholic Company’s website at <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/the-advent-wreath-tradition-meaning/>.

2. *Jesse Tree* – The Jesse Tree helps us to connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. The tree is decorated each week with ornaments or objects that represent Old Testament events from creation to the birth of Jesus. For more information about the Jesse Tree and how to begin this faith-filled tradition with your family, visit the Loyola Press website at <http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/the-jesse-tree>.

3. *Nativity Scene* – Many Christians display a Nativity scene in their homes during Advent. A Nativity scene depicts the birthplace of Jesus. Typically included in this set are Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, the three wise men, and various farm animals. Traditionally, the figures are added gradually to recount the historic Christmas story. For more information and ideas on how to incorporate this tradition into your Advent, visit the Catholic Company website at <https://www.osv.com/MyFaith/ChurchSeasonsandFeasts/Advent.aspx>.

### 4. *Feast of St. Nicholas*

– The Feast of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children is celebrated December 6. Traditionally children leave their shoes or stockings outside their doors the evening before, and St. Nicholas fills them with some small gifts or treats for the children to see when they wake up. This tradition is a great way to teach your children to venerate the saints and to provide some special festivity in the early, waiting weeks of Advent. For ideas on how to celebrate this day with your family, visit the St. Nicholas Center website at <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/celebrate-at-home/>.



For ideas on how to celebrate this day with your family, visit the St. Nicholas Center website at <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/celebrate-at-home/>.

5. *Advent Calendar* - An Advent calendar counts down the 24 days of December ending on Christmas Eve. Advent calendars are a great way to teach your children about the Advent and Christmas season, teaching them to join with the Church in waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ, the real meaning of the Advent season.

6. *Best Advent Ever* – This is a free email program by Dynamic Catholic that will help you focus on what is really important during Advent. Beginning the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) and continuing every day until December 26, you will receive short inspirational videos, practical tips, or free Christmas music that will help you slow down and reflect during the busy Christmas season. For more information or to sign up, go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/>.

*Rome Family, Continued from Page 3*

men’s team, the 412 ministry team, and attends the Lifeline Masses.

“There are weeks when we are at the church every single day,” said Brian. “St. Hubert is a part of our family.” This past summer Noah and Caleb attended World Youth Day. “When we picked them up

from the airport, we gave Fr. Tollefson a ride back to St. Hubert and the first thing Caleb wanted to do was visit the church. He missed it.”

The Romes look forward to many more years at St. Hubert. “This parish has been a great influence and wonderful

parish home to our family, and we can’t imagine going anywhere else,” says Brian.

## COMMUNITY

# Christmas in Nigeria *By Fr. Bruno Nwachukwu*

*I am from the Igbo (or Ibo) tribe from a state in southeastern Nigeria called Imo.* Imo occupies the area between the Lower River Niger and the Upper and Middle Imo River. Unlike Minnesota, where there are four distinct seasons, there are only two seasons in Nigeria – the rainy season from April to October and the dry season from November to March. There are approximately two months of Harmattan, a very dry and dusty period from the end of December until the end of February. During this time, it is so dusty you literally must wipe off anything you plan to touch or sit on.

Christmas in Nigeria is like Christmas in Minnesota in many ways. We both celebrate the birth of Christ and worship at Mass. We both celebrate with our families and eat traditional foods. I would like to share with you the unique ways we celebrate in Nigeria. The central themes around our Christmas festivities in Nigeria are worship, food, family, and dance. Families prepare many weeks for Christmas. It is tradition to return to your family's village, likely where your grandparents may still live, to celebrate from Christmas through New Year's Day. Cities become almost unoccupied at this time because it is so important to go back to your family's village. If for some reason a family is unable to return to their village, the children are as disappointed as if they did not get to go on a vacation.

People save money throughout the year to spend at Christmas. Prices of everything increase, unlike the holiday sales in Minnesota. However, just like in Minnesota, the marketplaces are very busy. There is a great deal of shopping at this time, but not for presents.

Shopping is more about travel and buying food to prepare for the gatherings to come. Those who can afford to decorate do so, much as we do in Minnesota with lights and Christmas trees. Fireworks are an important part of the Christmas celebration. Children ask their parents for money or go caroling and dancing door to door to earn money for fireworks.

It is also important to look good for the holiday celebrations, so many people are either shopping for new clothing, or making new clothing. Families who cannot afford to buy gifts will give new clothing to their children at Christmas. Families get their hair styled or cut. It is important to show respect for God by looking good when they attend Christmas Mass.

Families shop for livestock such as chickens and goats that will be slaughtered on Christmas Eve for the celebrations. Rice is traditionally served at Christmas, as it harkens back to a time when people could not afford rice except on special occasions. The meal would include mashed yams called fufu, soups, vegetables, and fruit for dessert.

All this food preparation happens because people will drop in to visit, and you will be expected to feed them, lest you feel ashamed that you could not or did not do so. You will also be expected to drop in on others. Since so many people are back in their family villages, it is a time for end of year parties and fund raising, even in the parishes, where small groups may have a party to share food and to encourage one another. Many families will plan weddings, baptisms, birthday, or anniversary celebra-



tions at this time to take advantage of everyone being in the village.

On December 24 everyone is busy slaughtering and preparing the animals for the meals, and cooking while listening to Christmas music. Everyone dresses their best for the Christmas Mass, some in the traditional dress of their tribes. At the Christmas vigil, everyone dances to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Right after Mass people begin visiting and sharing food with family and friends.

“Erigwara” which means “eat back” is a celebration from December 26 through New Year's Day. Each community has a market day that they celebrate. These days are named for the original Nigerian days of the week (before colonization by the British): Eke, Orie, Nkwo and Afor. Friends and relatives from other villages come on your market day to eat and dance, and in the evenings go to the market square for a Christmas show of dancing, song, masquerade and fireworks. Then you will in turn visit them on their market day.

The Vigil of the New Year is very important. Families come together to pray and thank God for bringing them into the New Year. Some parishes will schedule Mass at 10 PM or 11 PM so that parishioners can celebrate the New Year at church. Those who are not able to attend this late Mass set their alarms and wake their children to pray and give thanks to God.

Although Nigerian Christmas traditions are very different from Minnesotan traditions, we both keep the birth of Christ as the focus of our celebrations.



## SCHOOL

### Tour St. Hubert School!

*The best time to see St. Hubert School is when the classrooms and halls are bustling with students. We would love to have you come and tour the school anytime, any day, to fully understand why we were voted the #1 private school by Sun Times Newspaper.*

Catholic Schools Week is a great time to see the school as we celebrate our Catholic faith all week long. It begins Sunday, January 29 with an open house following the 10:30 AM Mass and will include our annual Scholastic Book Fair in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Hubert School offers an outstanding education as well as a daily faith curriculum included in every subject area. Our students receive their sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation for a strong faith foundation before their journey to high school. We strongly believe their understanding of the sacraments and the strength of their faith tools give our students a strong foundation to navigate through high school and beyond.

Please visit our St. Hubert School Facebook page and our school website [www.school.sthubert.org](http://www.school.sthubert.org) to learn more. Call Rob Schlegel 952-934-6003 for a tour at your convenience!

### New Athletic Assemblies

*St. Hubert School Athletic Director, Mark Schuh, has found a new way to celebrate St. Hubert School athletes and their coaches.* The entire school now has the opportunity to be a part of an athletic celebration in the school gym during our new pep assemblies. Mark is looking forward to getting the younger students excited about one day being a Hornet just like the older students. Coaches, moms, dads, grandparents, friends and any St. Hubert school sport enthusiasts are welcome to join us. Upcoming athletic assemblies are on Wednesday, February 22 and May 17, 2017, directly after our all school 9:15 AM Mass.

St. Hubert has sport teams for grades 5-8 which include volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball and track. If you are interested in being an St. Hubert School Hornet, please contact Mark Schuh.



### Preschool Update

We are excited to announce that Little Saints Preschool now has more than 70 children enrolled! The St. Hubert Faith Community is so blessed to have all these little ones spending each day exploring, learning, and socializing with friends while centering their day around Christ.

#### Some preschool highlights:

- We offer half day, St. Hubert school day, or extended day options five days a week.
- Enroll at any time during the year in our year-round program.
- Our full core curriculum is coordinated with kindergarten to ensure a smooth transition for students as they graduate from preschool.
- Students attend all school Mass on Wednesdays.
- Older St. Hubert School students partner as reading buddies.

It is vital to integrate each child within the school as it helps them feel safe and secure as they continue their education here at St. Hubert. This helps them to thrive, learn, and retain more of what they are taught within the classroom. Preschool sets the foundation for your child's future. Eighty percent of a child's neurological connections are made by age three and ninety percent by age five. Studies show that children who attend preschool at an earlier age are more successful not only in school, but in their career as they get older. We love having future families tour our program and meet our teachers. If you are interested in learning more about Little Saints Preschool, you may email Sitania Kerkinni at [Sitania.kerkinni@sthubert.org](mailto:Sitania.kerkinni@sthubert.org) or 952-934-6003.

FAITH FORMATION

Welcome New Members

Jessica Baker  
Cale and Jill Berry  
Erik and Erica Bloudek  
Alex and Dana Boone  
Benjamin and Angela Chapin  
David and Jennifer DeAlwis  
Donald and Michele Duncan  
Robert and Lisa Ellis  
Jonathan and Karen Elsner  
Thomas and Ardys Forster  
Alan and Catherine Gullikson  
William and Bonnie Hays  
Paul Hepperla  
Charles and Theresa Hill  
Jude and Cindy Hoffman  
Ed and Mandy Karasek  
Kathleen Kelly  
Dan and Marci Kennedy  
David and Sarah Kirchner  
Robert and Kelly Kress  
Scott and Denise Lacher  
Jason and Jaime Lamontagne  
Brad and Deanna Lasser  
Richard and Lynnette Leising  
Darreck and Amie Lisle  
Thomas and Sheila McCue  
Matt and Amy Mosier  
Justin O'Brien  
Travis and Angela Olson  
Stephen and Jolene Panciocco  
David Pedersen  
Mike and Cindy Ramler  
Jeffrey and Brittany Rueber  
Robert and Stephanie Sass  
Brian and Nicole Schmidt  
Jason and Lisa Schmidt  
Michael and Ann Stiebner  
Benjamin and Heather Sykora  
Geoff and Michelle Theobald  
Jonathan and Marcela Thielen  
Dale and Bridget Trisko  
Ryan and Anna Urlick  
Kevin and Dana Vetsch  
Barry Wachter and Teresa Sebert  
Mark and Karen Wickett

Children’s Holy Hour

By Cheri Quast

*“Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray.* The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’”(Matthew 19:13-14)

Why would the disciples prevent the children from coming to Jesus? Did they think that only adults could benefit from his presence? Maybe they thought the children would be a nuisance or that they would cause trouble. Or maybe it was loud and chaotic as the kids clamored for Jesus’ attention and it became overwhelming to them. Whatever the reason, we know for sure that Jesus did not mind the children coming to Him. He knew that the parents needed to teach their children what his own parents taught him - you need to go to God at all times.

It is hard to believe that Jesus needed to be taught anything. After all he is God and knows everything; yet he did not come to us as an adult, but as a baby. Like any good parent this would mean that Mary and



Joseph had to teach him things like how to walk and talk. They would have even taught him to go to God through the fundamentals of prayer which he would perfect over time. His prayer brought him into union with his Father and gave him the help and strength he needed in difficult moments. Jesus knew that at some point these children would experience difficulties in their own lives, and therefore they too would need to go to God for help, which is why he allowed them to approach him without fear and reservation.

Today’s parents are called to be like Mary and Joseph and teach their children the fundamentals of prayer. This is why we established the L’Innocence Children’s Holy Hour on Thursdays from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. While children are welcome in the Adoration Chapel at any time, we wanted to have a Holy Hour that is geared specifically for them. There is vocal prayer, singing, and other events that help children learn about Adoration and how to pray. It is the perfect opportunity to bring your children to Jesus and to teach them the importance of going to God without hesitation with all their needs.

Confirmation Glory Stories

Confirmation students have had a great year so far with so many opportunities to deepen their relationships with God and personal encounters. So many of them have shared their personal stories that indicate that the Holy Spirit is present and working in our teens’ hearts through Confirmation classes, Lifeline, and XLT Nights.

Here are some of the testimonials we’ve heard:

*“I really liked Eucharistic Adoration and just felt like I was growing closer to God.”*  
-Ninth Grader

*“I have heard this over and over, but it seems more clear how much God loves me and how he died for me personally.”*  
-Eighth Grader



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Middle School Ministry *By Matthew Blake*

### NET Team

*The NET team has hit the ground running and I am sure many of you have already met the energetic and outgoing members! This is the final year of the St. Hubert three-year partnership with NET Ministries.* The team is busy with daily prayer and preparing and hosting regular youth events, including Confirmation and EDGE. They also plan our large XLT Night events, meet young people out in the community on a one-on-one basis, attend sporting events on the weekends, and share their faith and joy with host families. It is not easy being a NET missionary but serving in a community as supportive and generous as St. Hubert definitely makes it worthwhile!

If you have not met the new NET team, look for one after Mass on Sunday or at St. Hubert during the week. They often will be wearing royal blue shirts. Thank you to all families who support our team!

### EDGE/Middle School Youth Ministry

Middle School youth ministry is off to a record start this year! At our first EDGE (a ministry devoted to the grades six and seven youth of the parish and school) night of the year, about 125 young people filled the gym for snacks, games, and prayer! This was the largest EDGE night I have experienced at St. Hubert! This semester youth are learning about the origin, structure, and mission of the Church; next semester they will learn about the Sacraments. Every EDGE night includes a game or activity, prayer, snacks, a teaching, and small group discussion.



*2016-2017 NET Team. Back Row: Francesca Weisbruch, Luke Billing, Bryce Utterback, Martha Guerra  
Front Row: Dorothy Allwein, Simon Vittitow, Ariella Bermea, Anthony Hollcraft*

Pizza Thursday, our other regular ministry for Middle School youth (grades 6-8), is also off to a great start. On October 20, twenty middle school youth came to the youth room for free pizza and games. During the nicer fall days, a typical Pizza Thursday usually ended outside playing kickball, football or nine-square.

We have a lot of fun in the Middle School Youth Ministry department. If you are a young person in grades 6-8 and want to get involved, come check us out at the next ministry night. You will not regret it!

*“My students are so open and growing closer with each other, you can tell they are hungry for the truth.”*  
–Confirmation Small Group Leader

*“I have been so grateful for the students! They have been engaging in class discussion and participating in the weekly challenges.”*  
–Confirmation Coordinator

*“One of my students I was praying for who seemed to have a hardened heart (hasn’t shared or participated the first*

*three weeks) volunteered to close us in prayer and as she began to pray it was so uplifting and encouraging to hear.”*  
–NET Member

*“My daughter is in Confirmation program and has to attend at least two XLT’s, after the first one my daughter begged me if we can go to all of them this year!”* –Parent

*“Seeing the teens and parents go to confession was my highlight. Some parents were moved with tears and the*

*kids were waiting in lines to get prayed over!”*  
–Middle School Faith Formation Coordinator

Please pray for our teens as well as their parents and leaders in their faith. It is our hope that our Confirmation program will serve as a foundation to the abundant life in Christ that they continue to pursue throughout their lives.

## COMMISSIONS/MINISTRIES

### Men's Ministry Opportunities *By Men's Ministry Leaders*

Active is how one can describe Men's Ministry at St. Hubert. There are many ways that men can learn, be active and grow deeper in their faith. Below are some options for getting involved.

#### **The Catholic Watchmen**

**Scott Hussey**

**scott.hussey11@gmail.com**

What does it mean to be a Catholic man? How does a man protect, provide for, and lead in his parish and family? The Catholic Watchmen is a program for all Catholic men to help them learn and strengthen these skills. The group at St. Hubert meets the fourth Tuesday each month for an informal, no-pressure gathering. We begin at 6:30 PM with a social (manly snacks and beverages) followed by a video and discussion at 7:00 PM. Please come and join us.

#### **Men's Small Groups**

**Steve Lentz**

**mslentz@mchsi.com**

St. Hubert has an active and growing men's small group ministry. Each group is typically 7-10 men who meet weekly or bi-weekly to learn more about their Catholic faith and to support each other on their personal journeys of developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The groups meet for 8-10 weeks in the fall and then again in the winter/spring. The groups use a wide variety of study materials, including books, workbooks and DVD-based studies, based on the interests of the men and the groups' facilitators. A wide variety of men participate in the groups including fathers with young families, Gen-Xers, baby boomers, singles, married men and grandfathers. The men also vary in terms of where they are on their faith journey. The small groups welcome all!

#### **Knights of Columbus**

**Grand Knight Mike Casanova**

**mjcas8372@gmail.com**

The Knights of Columbus at St. Hubert are active and do much more than pancake breakfasts, fish fries, pie sales, Corpus Christi processions, Good Friday cross bearers and honor guards for church dignitaries. Over the past three years our Council has raised almost \$50,000 which has been given back to the parish, community, and national and international causes. Eighty percent of the funds directly benefit the St. Hubert parish/school and community, making the Knights one of the strongest faith-based service organizations in our community.

Most importantly Knights are well-formed Catholic leaders not afraid to defend their faith, families and the Catholic Church. Knights are involved and have taken leadership roles in many church ministries. Knights care for their families and teach their children what it means to be Catholic.

#### **Cursillo**

**Scott Hussey**

**scott.hussey11@gmail.com**

Cursillo is a powerful and joy-filled lay led movement that begins with a 3-day encounter weekend. The primary mission is to bring individuals to a personal understanding of themselves, to develop a relationship with Jesus, and to learn how they can impact their environments by strengthening and building up the Christian community. Following the Cursillo Encounter weekend participants are encouraged to engage with fellow Cursillo members in weekly small groups to continue to grow in faith. These groups are a source of fellowship, friendship and accountability. We have many

Cursillo members at St. Hubert, any of whom would be happy to tell you more. Cursillo is a great way to grow in faith and Christian community.

#### **Upcoming Events**

##### **Men's Retreat: Men On Fire**

**Deacon Jim Bauhs**

**Jim.Bauhs@StHubert.org**

January 20-21, 2017

St. Hubert Catholic Community

"Men on Fire" is an adventure into the deeper places of a man's life. Honest and unvarnished, you will identify the killers of your heart, and explore the life God intended for every man. Through the sessions, interactions, movies and reflections, you will come to understand your own passion and desire, and discover that God has a destiny for your life! The disciples were frightened men locked in a room before the fire came. Then they were transformed into "Men on Fire"- bold, unafraid worldchangers! Answer the call of St. John Paul II, "Become who you are...set the whole world on fire."

Registration is \$50 per person. Online Registration closes on January 10, 2017. Walk-in registration is \$70 per person.

##### **2017 Archdiocese Men's Conference**

Saturday, March 18 at the University of St. Thomas. Watch for more information.

## COMMISSIONS/MINISTRIES

### GROW Women's Ministry *By Ann Schiefelbein*

Going strong into its third year at St. Hubert is our women's ministry GROW (God Renewing Our Women). GROW provides a monthly opportunity for women to connect and share faith, fellowship, and fun in a casual atmosphere in which members are encouraged to get to know one another. There are always refreshments and decorations in keeping with the season. We lead an optional rosary that follows with a presentation on a variety of topics such as: tips for low stress entertaining, discovering/using your gifts and talents, a Q&A with a priest/nun, and more!

Below is our event schedule as well as the upcoming topics for the 2016-2017 year.

#### GROW Event Structure

6:40 - 6:55 PM Rosary (Cry Room in main body of church)

7:00 - 8:00 PM Main Session (Fellowship Hall\*)

\*While child care is not provided, your little ones are welcome to join you.

#### Upcoming Topics

December – Service Project (TBD - usually serving coffee and donuts)



*Women enjoyed a canvas night for the kick-off GROW event in September*

January 17 – Fruits of the Spirit

February 21 – Living Out Your Vocation

March – Lenten Retreat

April 18 – Working with Mother Teresa

May 16 – How Mary Drives Your Life

### Worship - Not Just for Sundays *By Jean Fashant*

*As Catholics we appreciate the importance of participating in Mass every Sunday.* Many even search for a church to attend while vacationing or traveling for business. Pope Francis said Mass on Sunday is particularly important because “it is the day of the resurrection of the Lord, and with the Eucharist we feel our own belonging to the church, to the people of God, to the body of God, to Jesus Christ.” St. Hubert's weekend Mass times are at 5:15 PM Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, and 6 PM.

The Mass is a great gift that we can share with our community, not only on Sundays, but each day of the week. It is offered at St. Hubert on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 7:30 AM and

Wednesday mornings at both 6:30 AM and 9:15 AM. It is a beautiful, peaceful way to start the day, putting God at the beginning and center of your schedule and opening your heart for living your day in God's image. Pope Francis said, “By making himself broken bread for us, the Lord Jesus pours out to us all of his mercy and his love, renewing our heart, our existence and our way of relating to him and our brothers and sisters.”

The Mass can be a quiet time to pray and reflect. It can provide healing and strength and help to develop a stronger relationship with God and with our faith community. I invite you to find a daily Mass time that works in your schedule and I assure you that you will find it rewarding.

### Electronic Giving Opportunities

Electronic giving allows you to make donations to St. Hubert without writing checks or making cash donations. Simplify your giving by taking advantage of one of our many electronic giving options.

1. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
2. Online Giving by Credit Card
3. Give by Kiosk in the Narthex
4. Give by Text

Please contact the parish office or complete your Stewardship form to make your commitment for the 2017 year. Thank you for your generosity.

# Calendar of Events

## DECEMBER

- Dec 1 Young at Heart, 8:00 AM
- Dec. 6 School Advent Prayer Service, 6 PM
- Dec. 7 Parish Discipleship Night, 6 PM
- Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception, 6:30 AM, 9:15 AM & 7 PM
- Dec. 10-11 Cookie and Candy Sale, after all Masses
- Dec. 13 Baptism Class, 7 PM
- Dec. 14 EDGE and Confirmation Reconciliation, 6 PM
- Dec. 15 Parish Reconciliation, 7 PM
- Dec. 17 1st Reconciliation, 10 AM
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass - 4 PM, 6:30 PM & 10 PM
- Dec. 25 Christmas Mass - 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

## JANUARY

- Jan. 5 Young at Heart, 8:00 AM
- Jan. 7 1st Reconciliation, 10 AM
- Jan. 11 Parish Discipleship Night, 6 PM
- Jan. 20-21 Men on Fire Retreat
- Jan. 21 Bingo, 6:30 PM
- Jan. 10 School Band/Choir Concert, Westwood, 6:30 PM

## FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2 Young at Heart, 8 AM
- Feb. 8 Parish Discipleship Night, 6 PM

## Winter 2016 Features:

- Meet the Rome Family, Page 3
- How to Keep Jesus in Advent, Page 4
- Christmas in Nigeria, Page 6

The Hunter

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## Prayer Corner: Focus Prayer *By Cheri Quast*

Focus prayer is prayer used to help keep your attention on God and to declutter your mind so it is open to other types of prayer. Focus prayer is a prayer in which you repeat one religiously themed sentence repetitively. The sentence can be as long as you want such as, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner,” or as short as you want such as, “Jesus, I trust in you.”

The rhythm at which you recite this prayer is important. Say it slowly without rushing. but not so slowly that you fall asleep! Consider using your breathing as a guide to help you determine your speed. Take a deep breath in and as you slowly exhale keep repeating your sentence until you are out of breath. As you do this, thoughts will come into your head. Briefly acknowledge them, but do not focus on them. Instead, refocus your mind on the words you are saying. As you do this, you will notice that your outside thoughts are not taking precedence so you can focus more easily on your prayer with God.