2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

St. Hubert Catholic Church
729 Grand Canyon • Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

www.sainthubert.org
The Challenge of Waiting

Sometimes it’s hard to be patient. And we experience a lot of impatience around us; that can make it even more difficult—especially during this time of year. That’s what makes Advent—this time of patient waiting—a challenge. We’re watching for God and waiting for him to act, but sometimes it just doesn’t seem fast enough.

During those times, when prayers seem to go unanswered or hope is beginning to disappear, St. Peter—our first pope—offers some spiritual guidance today.

He says, “Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay,’ but he is patient with you not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:8-9, emphasis mine)

Peter is talking mainly about the second coming of Christ, but his words also hit home for us who are waiting for God to act in ways that effect our everyday lives. God finds patience with us but his time is often different from our own sense of it.

So, Peter will go on to say that instead of focusing on what may be out of our control, we can make the effort to focus on what is in our control, mainly the type of person we ought to be. When we live in the present moment one day at a time, trying to live as best we can as a follower of Christ, we get through—one day at a time—and maybe that’s all we can or need to do.

Reconciliation, prayer, forgiveness and a heartfelt desire to be a “better version of ourselves” (as author Matthew Kelly would say), all help us be “the sort of person we ought to be” (2 Peter 3:11).

Our Advent waiting then turns into Christmas hope: God meets us patiently as we patiently wait for him (even though it’s hard). Eventually, we find God working in our life—even if wasn’t the way we thought it would be. Every Christmas has its own surprises.

Preparing the Way!

Here are a few things to note in the pages that follow:

- Our Business Manager, Teresa McCutchan, provides the parish financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 on pages 8 & 9. In addition to the financial picture, Teresa also included our almsgiving contributions (the second collections that do not benefit the parish directly but are given to the organizations we support), as well as how many people have participated in the sacramental life of the Church. It’s a set of numbers, but it paints a picture of generosity and giving that has allowed all of us the opportunity to participate in the mission of the Church in the world. If you would like any further information about the financial report—or if you have an interest in learning about our Finance Council—please feel free to contact Teresa or myself.

- Advent is the shortest it can possibly be this year. In fact, the 4th Week of Advent is just one day and falls on Christmas Eve. The good news is that it’s possible to spend the entire day in Church! Of course, that may not be possible, so to help you plan, a full schedule of Mass times and spiritual offerings for Christmastime can be found on page 6.

- Our Communal Advent Reconciliation Service will be held Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM here at St. Hubert. As in years past, we’ve invited our neighbors at St. Marcelline to join us. It will be good to have this time to pray together and to receive one of the best Christmas gifts we can ever receive: God’s forgiveness.

As we patiently wait, let us continue to pray for one another one day at a time.

--Fr. Mike
This week’s second collection supports the
Retirement Fund for Religious

Many elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for little to no pay, and their religious communities do not have enough money for their care. Please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection at Masses this weekend.

Next Week’s Readings:
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

PRAY FOR . . .

Sick  Carmelo Scuncio, Lee Krizka, Joy George, Jeff Schiff, Keith Wilson, Annette Wen, Bob Bates, Bob Connors, Peter & Guadalupe Vaca, Michelle Aquino-Talgar, Christine Burns, Helen Zbylut, Mary Ann Groh, Larry Kutt, Sharnice Cyprien, Kathryn McCord, Mike Farrell, Malcolm Anthony Francis Ferrao, Jane Catherine Ferrao, Peter Ruden, Jonalyn Soriano, Shawn Anthony Ferrao, Nicole Antonette Ferrao, Katie Passarelli, Dan Moutvic, Kathy Holder, Judi Kukral, Eleanor Cordon, Don Fachet, Kenneth Villamar, Emma Tucker, John Scott Karas, Patti Lyons, Joyce Lockhart, Maria Gonzalez, Michael Scott, David Hawkins, Mateo Magistrado, Pat Dolezel, Della Bezanis, T.J. Valacak, Carol Clipper, Stephen Weber, Mary Kay Duda

Others  Those who protect us at home or overseas

Monday, December 11—St. Damasus I
7:00 AM  Mary Licciardi; Robert Moynihan, Sr.;
Irene Lacana

Tuesday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:30 AM  Deacon Tom Hayden; Dennis Donofrio;
Rafael Abello

Wednesday, December 13—St. Lucy
7:00 AM  Communion Service; Deacon Tom Hayden

Thursday, December 14—St. John of the Cross
7:00 AM  Communion Service

Friday, December 15
7:00 AM  Mary Licciardi; Margaret Bertouncini;
Kim Noonan; Helen McCormack

Saturday, December 16
4:30 PM  Mary & Joe Perry; John N. Lebert;
Jack Weber

Sunday, December 17—3rd Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM  Robert Borta; Mary Polina; Harry Gendron
9:00 AM  Jerome Colletti; William & Lenor Marsh;
Marian Witek
10:45 AM  Mary Witkowski; Tom O’Driscoll;
Wieslaw Puzewski
12:15 PM  Dominga Pureza; Paul Baack, Jr.;
Eliese Sistine Maglunog
6:00 PM  Ken Waity
2nd Sunday of Advent

"People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him." John the Baptist commanded quite a crowd. What was the attraction? Was it his unusual appearance—clothed in camel's hair? Perhaps it was his bizarre eating habits—feeding on locusts and wild honey. Or maybe people were captivated by the Baptist's remarkable humility in the face of such huge popularity—"I am not worthy."

Unlike our modern fascination with standing in the presence of superstars, the crowds who flocked to John weren't looking for a thrill. They weren't lining up for autographs. They were lining up for baptism. And they were acknowledging their sins at the same time. John was proclaiming "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." And people came because they were longing to experience the freedom of that forgiveness.

John called them to conversion. To convert means to turn, in this case to turn away from sin. And the crowds were anxious to do so in order to "prepare the way of the Lord." For these first-century Jews, the imminent approach of the Messiah came with a call for conversion and they took this call very seriously.

Now, for us, as twenty-first century Christians, the Church, like John the Baptist, calls us to prepare and repent during this season of Advent. Will we take the call seriously? Will we examine the areas of our lives that need to change? Will we pray for God's help to overcome our habitual sin and to make choices based on generosity instead of selfishness? Now is the time to heed the message. Now is the time to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

OPLATKI: THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

Now available while supplies last

The word Bethlehem means “House of Bread.” The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A Wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head family member breaks the Wafer and distributes it, a piece to each one at the table. While doing so, each member of the family is kissed and is wished a joyful feast. The other family members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age old custom is unity of the family – the main pillar of society. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist amongst the members of the family. The father of the family is the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church. The family joins him in this eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing by men to be always with one another, with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

WELCOMING WEEKEND
Saturday, December 9
Beginning with the 4:30 PM Mass

If you are new to St. Hubert or have been here for a while but have not had time to register and are interested in joining our parish family, please join us after the 4:30 PM Mass today, Saturday, December 9th in the lower level of the church. We'll gather for about one hour to share a meal, find out about the parish and complete your registration.

The next Welcoming event will be January 21, 2018.
Poinsettias and Greens for our Christmas Environment

If you would like to provide a poinsettia or greens for the environment this Christmas season, please fill out this form and bring to the Parish Ministry Center or drop in the collection basket.

Name of Honoree(s) for Poinsettias
___________________________________________
___________________________________________

Name of Donor
___________________________________________

Phone Number
___________________________________________

Any donation is welcome and can be applied toward the seasonal decorations.

Checks should be made out to St. Hubert Church.

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Please Join Us

SIMBANG GABI

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00 PM

Celebrant: Rev. Mike Scherschel

Reception after Mass

Sponsored by:
St. Hubert Bayanihan Association

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CHRISTMAS WISHING TREE

Last week we put up our Wishing Tree in the Narthex with tags for individuals and families living in the parish areas of St. Hubert and St. Aloysius. And, as we have also done in the past, we are continuing our outreach to residents at Alden Poplar Creek and the children and families served by PHD (Society for the Preservation of Human Dignity) and the Elgin Crisis Center.

If you took a tag with a persons’ name from the Giving Tree it must be returned by Noon, December 17th. This way you can help those less fortunate share the blessings and joy of this Christmas season.

Volunteer are also needed to help with delivering the sorted presents to St. Aloysius at Noon on Sunday, December 17th. A Sign-up sheet is located on one of the kiosks in the Narthex.

Adore and Worship

Monday, December 18 7:00—8:15 PM

An Evening of Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship

The truth of the matter is that the holidays are an incredibly busy time. The gifts, the parties, the baking, the family—or perhaps the absence of these things—can make the season stressful and chaotic. Wouldn’t it be a great to carve out a few minutes to re-focus our hearts on what the coming of Jesus really means?

If you are looking for an oasis of calm amid the holiday rush, join us for this spirit-filled evening of prayer and song that will renew and enliven your faith as we wait in joyful hope for the One who is the cause of our joy, and Who is coming soon.
Preparing to Celebrate Christmas

Adore & Worship Service
Monday, December 18: 7:00—8:30 PM
Fr. Mike will hear Individual Confessions

Exploring the Birth of Christ CAFÉ Presentation
Tuesday, December 19: 7:00—8:30 PM
Dorothy Day Room in the Parish Ministry Center

Communal Reconciliation Service at St. Hubert
Wednesday, December 20: 7:00 PM
Individual Confessions will be available (6 Priests)

4th Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 23: 4:30 PM Mass
Sunday, December 24: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM Mass
We will not have a 12:15 PM Mass.

Christmas Eve Masses
Sunday, December 24: 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM and Midnight

Christmas Day Masses
Monday, December 25: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Sunday Mass: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Saturday, December 30: 4:30 PM Mass
Sunday, December 31: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM and 12:15 PM Mass
We will not have a 6:00 PM Mass.

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year’s)
Not a Holy Day of obligation this year.
Sunday, December 31: 4:30 PM Mass
Monday, January 1: 9:00 AM Mass
### 2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture References</th>
<th>Reflection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11</td>
<td>Prepare for the Lord! For whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives, a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ps 85:9-14</td>
<td>We can only do this by uniting ourselves to Christ, joining him on the straight path, the holy path. How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peter 3:8-14</td>
<td>Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up our potential for fruitfulness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark 1:1-8</td>
<td>Advent is a good preparation for Christmas—and meeting the Lord anew—if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, our lives will be barren of the strong faith we need during difficulties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday December 11</td>
<td>Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that’s easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 35:1-10</td>
<td>All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of God stands forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ps 85:9-14</td>
<td>What are your troubles and struggles? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke 5:17-26</td>
<td>What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away? A hundred years from now, will what you’re doing today still have an impact—a beneficial impact?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 12</td>
<td>God has given you talents and a calling, a special purpose that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his kingdom in our lives and in others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Prepare for the Lord to make an eternal difference through you!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zechariah 2:14-17 or</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judith (15:9d)13:18-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday December 13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Lucy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaiah 40:25-31</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 103:1-4,8,10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 11:28-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday December 14</td>
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<td>St. John of the Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaiah 41:13-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 145:1,9-13ab</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 11:11-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday December 15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaiah 48:17-19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 1:1-4,6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 11:16-19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday December 16</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sirach 48:1-4,9-11</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 17:9a,10-13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
From the Office of the Business Manager
The following is the Parish Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2017. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or send an email. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents so generously.  

—Teresa McCutchan

Financial Summary of Church and School Operations
Years ended June 30, 2017, June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2015

1. Church Activities
The following is a summary of Church revenue and expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6/30/17</th>
<th>6/30/16</th>
<th>6/30/15</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday and Holy Days</td>
<td>1,226,290</td>
<td>1,263,441</td>
<td>1,180,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>61,329</td>
<td>65,714</td>
<td>64,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>45,275</td>
<td>48,036</td>
<td>39,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total collections</td>
<td>$1,332,894</td>
<td>$1,377,191</td>
<td>$1,284,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>81,582</td>
<td>75,705</td>
<td>80,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$81,582</td>
<td>$75,705</td>
<td>$80,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>$251,166</td>
<td>$170,568</td>
<td>$652,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Church Operating Revenue</td>
<td>$1,665,642</td>
<td>$1,623,464</td>
<td>$2,016,997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Expenses:
Church operating expenses by major classifications are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6/30/17</th>
<th>6/30/16</th>
<th>6/30/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>762,166</td>
<td>737,441</td>
<td>727,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities, repairs, and maintenance, PRMMA,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of ministries, and programs</td>
<td>450,526</td>
<td>520,932</td>
<td>468,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archdiocesan Assessment</td>
<td>141,605</td>
<td>153,888</td>
<td>147,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Paid on the Building Loan</td>
<td>76,917</td>
<td>79,941</td>
<td>82,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Church Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$1,431,214</td>
<td>$1,492,202</td>
<td>$1,425,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net excess of revenue over expenses:

- $234,428
- $131,262
- $591,472

Giving Alms: Special Collections Taken Up and Paid Out

Archdiocesan Collections*: 41,843 51,318 52,064
St Aloysius - Sharing Parish 26,156 29,031 28,017
Community Life - Help for Parishioners in Need 26,156 29,031 28,017

$94,155 $109,380 $108,098


Building Fund Expenses

- $36,240
- $66,666
- $52,392
Financial Summary of the Church and School Operations

2. School Activities
The following is a summary of School Revenues and Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6/30/17</th>
<th>6/30/16</th>
<th>6/30/15</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, Fees, and Book Rental</td>
<td>1,950,611</td>
<td>2,153,969</td>
<td>2,079,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>67,748</td>
<td>69,435</td>
<td>72,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>42,448</td>
<td>19,540</td>
<td>52,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Support</td>
<td>332,378</td>
<td>104,165</td>
<td>183,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total School Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,393,185</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,347,109</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,388,667</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |         |         |         |
| **Expenses:**        |         |         |         |
| Salaries and Benefits| 2,039,497 | 1,954,687 | 1,953,581 |
| Books, Equipment and Supplies | 97,910 | 100,935 | 107,566 |
| Utilities, Maintenance, Repairs, Other | 255,778 | 291,487 | 327,520 |
| **Total School Operating Expenses** | **$2,393,185** | **$2,347,109** | **$2,388,667** |

The educational programs provided by the Parish require support to the extent that the educational program expenses exceed educational program revenues. The support payments are included as part of the total Church operation expenses. Support provided for years ending June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015 by program, were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6/30/17</th>
<th>6/30/16</th>
<th>6/30/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>39,744</td>
<td>45,411</td>
<td>43,372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry</td>
<td>1,984</td>
<td>4,367</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>332,378</td>
<td>104,165</td>
<td>183,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$374,106</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,943</strong></td>
<td><strong>$227,003</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Other Items of Interest: Accounts, Funds & Loans

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Checking Accounts</td>
<td>-23,179</td>
<td>56,561</td>
<td>-105,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Savings Accounts</td>
<td>399,806</td>
<td>395,219</td>
<td>390,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Endowment Fund</td>
<td>952,523</td>
<td>963,221</td>
<td>1,063,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
<td>72,382</td>
<td>113,835</td>
<td>197,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Savings and Fund Accounts</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,424,711</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,472,275</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,651,784</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combined Loans</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,506,847</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,609,930</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,709,989</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Nurturing the Spiritual Life at St. Hubert Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6/30/17</th>
<th>6/30/16</th>
<th>6/30/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministering the Sacraments:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Communions</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmations</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Sunday Mass Attendance</td>
<td>2,155</td>
<td>2,169</td>
<td>2,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Educating Our Youth:**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education Students</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Hubert School Students</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We currently have 40 active ministries with over 1,000 opportunities to volunteer. Thank you for all you do to help support and build up the St. Hubert Parish Community.
Christmas is like a diamond you hold up in the sun. Every time you move it even a little it gives off yet a different sparkle. It is inexhaustible in the meanings it generates. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas, let me speak of one of its sparkles that we too rarely examine:

Several years ago, I attended an international symposium on Church in Belgium. It had been organized by Christiane Brusselmanns and one of the speakers at that conference was Michael Rodrigo, an Oblate Priest from Asia who several years later was to be martyred as he said Mass in Sri Lanka.

In his address, Michael challenged the churches, especially the First World churches, to examine themselves as to whether they were unhealthily turned in upon themselves as opposed to being truly missionary and other-centered. At one point, he highlighted the following statement of Christ: My flesh is food for the life of the world. He went on to ask this question: “What are we trying to do within the life of our churches? Do our churches exist for the life of the world or for their own sake? When we establish any program in our parishes, what really is our aim? Are we trying to better the life of the world or are we trying to simply better the life of our own parish? Is our aim as a church community really to let ourselves be eaten, killed, consumed, so that the world, not we, ourselves, might live?”

Christ, he re-iterated, gave his body as food for the life of the world and not just as food for the life of believers.

What has all this to do with Christmas and our preparations for it?

Jesus was born in a manger, a place where brute animals, oxen and ass, come to eat. That symbolism is not accidental. Jesus was born in a trough, a feeding place. This already shows us what Jesus will later on explicitly tell us, namely, that his life and his body are food for the life of the world. Christ exists to be eaten … and to be eaten, first of all, by the world, not by the churches. If that is true, and it is, then all of church life and ministry exist for that same reason, they are food to be eaten by the world. Christ lay in a manger, a trough, as a sign that he is food for the ox, sheep, and ass, the world. There is both a challenge and a consolation in that.

The challenge, obviously, is that, as church communities and as individuals, we should never succumb to the temptation of narcissism, that is, we should never become so excessively absorbed with ourselves so as to forget that we exist, precisely, to be eaten by the world. The primary agenda for the church must always be the survival, well-being, and consolation of the world. The church doesn’t exist so that it can thrive and the world can, so to speak, go to the eschatological place of the wicked. The church exists for the sake of the world, not the other way around. Jesus showed us this by lying in a bed of straw.

The consolation is less obvious though, for that reason, not less important. If we meditate the image of Jesus lying in a manger we will, perhaps, feel less sorry for ourselves at those times when we feel like we are being eaten up, literally, by the demands of ministry, family, justice, and the like. When we feel the most sorry for ourselves, when we are over-tired and feel that others are simply eating us alive and that we are not being given the chance to have the kind of life and freedom we would like, we might profitably reflect upon the fact that Jesus was born in a manger, a trough, a place where animals come to feed. The Christ child is meant to be eaten by the world. That too is central to the meaning of Christmas and what it implies vis-a-vis our vocation should also be central in our preparation for Christmas.

Scripture says: Mary gave birth to her first-born and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. There is a entire ecclesiology and pastoral theology in that line. Christmas is a time to eat and celebrate, but it is also a time when we should realize more deeply that our vocation, like that of Jesus, is to let ourselves be eaten, as Christ’s flesh which is food for the life of the world.

When I was child, each advent my mother used to set out a little manger for us and ask us, as kids, to place a little piece of straw in it every time we made some small sacrifice: “To make a bed for the baby Jesus.” That’s not bad piety, it’s good theology!

Used with permission of the author. Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, and is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. Reprinted from November 29, 1994.
NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

Congratulations to the following students!
Preschool Stephanie Yoshimura, Kindergarten Milena DeLosSantos,
Grade 1 Natalie Pavlatos, Grade 2 Logan Patterson, Grade 3 Julia Zywicki,
Grade 4 Bella Brenzinger, Grade 5 Maddie Frank, Grade 6 Julia Curtis,
Grade 7 Grace Kelly, Grade 8 Ty Schafer.

Call To Schedule A Tour Today!
847-885-7702

Grades Pre-K thru 8th Grade
A New Year and Illinois’ New Investment in Kids
A St. Hubert Catholic School Education Could Be Possible

The State of Illinois has passed the “Invest in Kids Act”—a new way for families to receive to scholarships for those who choose to attend Catholic schools like St. Hubert. Scholarships offered through this program have the potential to cover up to 100% of tuition for next school year.

Families can apply for this financial support through Empower Illinois at empowerillinois.org. Scholarships will be granted on a first come first serve basis. We anticipate Empower Illinois will begin accepting applications January 2, 2018, however it maybe sooner. So, visit empowerillinois.org early and often to be one of the first to apply!

For more information contact:
St. Hubert Catholic School at office@sthubertschool.org or 847-885-7702.

Does Domestic Violence Take A Holiday???

It seems that for some families, the holidays tend to bring out the worst in others. You may think maybe it’s the stress, the financial strains, or the over indulgence and that may be true for some. However, much of the domestic violence that takes place in a home is a power struggle to control others.

Neither alcohol nor stressful situations cause domestic violence. It is a result of abusers imposing their expectations on their partners, regardless of the time of year. Domestic violence doesn’t take a holiday.

- It happens to people of every educational and socioeconomic level.
- It happens in all races, religions and age groups.
- It happens in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships.

If you or someone you know is being abused, seek help today. In an emergency, please dial 911. For all other help, please call: Illinois Statewide Domestic Violence Helpline 877 TO END DV (877-863-6338), 877-863-6339 TTY or call WINGS 24-hour hotline 847-221-5680.

Read more: https://deborahj.com/2015/12/23/domestic-violence-doesnt-take-a-holiday

Brought to you by the St. Hubert Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry.

Job & Networking Ministry
Holiday Social Night
December 11
6:30—8:30 PM
Saint Hubert Ministry Center

Join us as for an early Christmas Holiday celebration. We will have punch and cake, lots of nibbles and great conversation. It will ne a good evening to network and get to know a few new people and offer holiday wishes to previous acquaintances and friends. This will conclude our 2017 meeting schedule.

For questions regarding the St. Hubert Job Ministry events, contact Bob Podgorski at careerguy1@gmail.com.

Catholic Minds - Catholic Matters

Experiencing the Birth of Christ

How do Matthew, Luke and John explain this great mystery in their Gospel accounts?

Presenter Seminarian Ryan Brady

Wednesday, December 19 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Lower Level of the Church in the Community Room

Come and hear Ryan speak about the Scripture stories that speak of the birth of Christ in history, about the Word becoming flesh.

Christmas celebrates more than a birthday. It celebrates salvation and redemption! It celebrates God’s love! The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God’s love: ‘In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.’ (1 Jn 4:9) ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.’ (Jn 3:16)” (see CCC 458).

For more information: Call 847-885-7700, ext. 101 or email speakersseries@stainthubert.org.

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For more information: Call 847-885-7700, ext. 101 or email speakersseries@stainthubert.org.
ST. HUBERT LIFE

You Can Help Run a Respect Life Ad in the Daily Herald!

The Catholic Parishes in Vicariate I are sponsoring a pro-life ad in the Daily Herald to mourn the 45th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court Decision legalizing abortion.

Please consider contributing $5.00 (minimum) toward the cost of the advertisement. Sponsors have the option of listing their names in the ad or remaining anonymous.

A sample of the ad will be on display and St. Hubert Respect Life ministry members will be available to accept your donations after Masses on Saturday, December 16th and Sunday, December 17th. Or you may send your $5 donation (check written to St. Hubert Church) with your name (printed clearly) as you wish it printed in the ad, and mail it by December 16th to:

Daily Herald Respect Life Ad
C/O: John Johnston
377 Cedar Tree Court
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Parish Contacts

Parish Office .................. 847-885-7700 Ext. 102
Fax .................. 847-885-4631
www.sainthubert.org

Rev. Mike Scherschel (Pastor) .................. Ext. 106
Rev. Robert C. Rizzo (Pastor Emeritus)
Pat Aschom (Pastoral Secretary) .................. Ext. 104
Deacon Steve Baldasti ............................. Ext. 105
Deacon Dick & Sandy Lawson .................. Ext. 110
Deacon Allen & Stephanie Tatara .................. Ext. 114
Teresa McCutchan (Business Manager) ........... Ext. 111
Marie Staffa (Ministry Coordinator) ........... Ext. 124
Ed Magistrado (Director of Music) ............. Ext. 108
Michael Keenan (Director Religious Ed.) ........ 847-885-7703
Stephanie Tatara (Youth Ministry Coordinator) Ext. 114
Karyn Weiland (Bulletin Editor) .................. Ext. 119

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Thursday .................. 9:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday .................. 9:00AM - 4:00PM
(Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00PM)
Saturday .................. 9:00AM - 1:30PM
Sunday .................. 9:00AM - 1:30PM

Alexian Interfaith Counseling Services .................. 855-383-2224
Domestic Violence Helpline .................. 877-863-6338

ST. HUBERT SCHOOL .................. 847-885-7702
Kelly Bourrell .......................... Principal
.................................. Assistant Principal
Fax .................. 847-885-0604
Email .................. office@sthubertschool.org

Archdiocese Hot Lines
Sexual Abuse .................. 800-994-6200
Financial Misconduct .................. 866-294-5256

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017
### St. Hubert Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monday      | December 11| 2:00 PM—Athletics—MPR  
               |             | 6:00 PM—Girl Scouts/Dombrowski—LR  
               |             | 6:30 PM—Cub Scouts/Reynolds—RMR  
               |             | 7:00 PM—Job Ministry Holiday Meeting—PMC CR  
               |             | 7:00 PM—Adore & Worship Rehearsal—RMR, SCR  
               |             | 7:00 PM—Choir Rehearsal—CH  
               |             | 7:30 PM—Boy Scouts Troop Mtg.—HALL, COMM |
| Tuesday     | December 12| 2:00 PM—Athletics—MPR  
               |             | 4:00 PM—Youth Choir Rehearsal—CH  
               |             | 6:30 PM—Boy Scout Patrol Leader Council—RMR  
               |             | 7:00 PM - RCIA Catechetical Session—DD  
               |             | 7:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal—CH |
| Wednesday   | December 13| 1:30 PM—Athletics—MPR  
               |             | 4:00 PM—RE Class—SCHOOL, CHURCH LL  
               |             | 6:30 PM—Cub Scouts Pack Night—HALL  
               |             | 6:30 PM—Girl Scouts/Ball—PMC CR  
               |             | 7:00 PM—FSA Board Meeting—TL  
               |             | 7:30 PM—Young Adult Choir Rehearsal—CH |
| Thursday    | December 14| 6:30 PM—Cub Scouts Den Meeting/Dombrowski—LR  
               |             | 6:30 PM—SHBA Choir Practice—CH  
               |             | 7:00 PM—KC Business Meeting—COMM  
               |             | 7:00 PM—School Board Meeting—LIB |
| Friday      | December 15| 7:00 PM—School Band Concert—MPR, PMC CR  
               |             | 7:00 PM—Simbang Gabi—CH  
               |             | 8:00 PM—Simbang Gabi Reception—CHURCH LL |
| Saturday    | December 16| 8:00 AM—Athletics—MPR  
               |             | 8:00 AM—Youth Choir Rehearsal—CH  
               |             | 9:00 AM—RE Class—SCHOOL, CHURCH LL  
               |             | 9:00 AM—FSA Setup Santa Sale—PMC CR  
               |             | 4:30 PM—Respect Life Newspaper Ads—NARTHEX  
               |             | 7:00 PM—SHBA Sports—MPR |
| Sunday      | December 17| 7:30 AM—Respect Life Newspaper Ads—NARTHEX  
               |             | 9:00 AM—Community Life Sort Gifts—COMM  
               |             | 10:00 AM—FSA Setup Santa Sale—PMC CR  
               |             | 1:30 PM—Athletics—MPR  
               |             | 1:30 PM—Gift Delivery to St. Al’s—HALL, OFFSITE |

### Weekly Mass Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Reconciliation after Mass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sunday      | 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 AM; 12:15 & 6:00 PM | Mass  
               |               | Adoration after Friday morning Mass until 9 AM |
| Monday & Friday | 7:00 AM Mass | Mass  
               |               | Adoration after Friday morning Mass until 9 AM |
| Tuesday     | 8:30 AM       | Mass  
               |               | Adoration after Friday morning Mass until 9 AM |

### Sacramental Life

**Call the Parish Office 847-885-7700 for further questions or to make arrangements.**

**Baptisms**

To register for Baptism, stop in or call the Parish Office. Parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Meeting, which is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. You may attend this parent meeting either before or after the baby is born. Baptisms take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:30 PM or at Mass by arrangement. You will confirm the date for Baptism by attending the Baptism Preparation Meeting.

**Marriages**

Please do not reserve your banquet hall before confirming the date with the church. Set your date by calling the Parish Office as early as possible as you plan your wedding—at least 6 months before the wedding. Weddings take place on Saturdays at 2:00 PM. Weekdays and Sundays must be arranged individually.

**Reconciliation**

Saturday after 4:30 PM Mass, or by appointment.

**Eucharist for the Sick and Homebound**

If there is anyone who would like to receive Eucharist at home, or if you know a friend, neighbor or family member who is homebound and would like a home visit to receive Eucharist, please call the Parish Ministry Center. One of our dedicated ministers will be glad to fulfill these requests.

**Sacrament of the Sick**

Please call the Parish Ministry Center Office to make arrangements for a priest to visit.