



MARY

Mother of the Church

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St. Hubert Christian Women's Ministry

*Blessed to Gather in Service
for Our Parish Community and Beyond*

ST. JOSEPH
Bertha

ST. HUBERT
Bluegrass

**ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST**
Bluffton

**ASSUMPTION
OF OUR LADY**
Menahga

ST. MICHAEL
Motley

SACRED HEART
Staples

ST. FREDERICK
Verndale

ST. ANN
Wadena

The St. Hubert Christian Women's Ministry might not have a large membership base, but they get a lot of work done for those in our parish and those in need. As St. Teresa of Avila says, we are Christ's hands here on earth:

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Rosie Middendorf has been part of this ministry since she came to St. Hubert's about 23 years ago. She and her husband, Dan, moved to the area.

"We want to support our parish family and those in need," she says. "We want to be Jesus' hands and feet in the outside world to those who need our help."

The women meet only a few times of year, but they get a lot of projects done for those around them. Each child and young adult who receives one of the Sacraments of Initiation gets a gift from the Christian Women. Baptized babies receive a blanket, First Communicants a rosary, and Confirmands a cross.



Some of the members of the St. Hubert Christian Women's Ministry



St. Hubert Christian Women's Ministry

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The women also send cards to those from the parish who are going through a hard time. Those people also receive a card at Christmas and Easter.

"We call them 'pick-me-up cards,'" Rosie says. "They are there for anyone going through a hard time to let them know we care about them."

The Christian Women are also in charge of the parish Prayer Chain. A few Wednesdays per year, they help serve snacks to Faith Formation students when they arrive for classes. In October, Christian Women members lead the Rosary before Mass.

"This organization is important to me," Rosie says. "We all need to grow in faith, and I want to help women grow on their faith journey. We can learn from one another."

Rosie helps coordinate a Baby Jesus shower, collecting items up to size 12. They also collect adult clothes, all of which are brought to the White Earth Reservation. A few times per year, group members also go to Pine Point School at White Earth to play games with the preschool students. The women also make fleece blankets for the preschool students, as many don't have their own blanket.

"This is all a team effort," Rosie says. "It's a blessing that parishioners support all of this work."

The Christian Women organize a school supply drive in August, with the supplies going to students in need at local schools. They also gather items for seminarian care packages. This project holds a special place in Rosie's heart because her son, Eric, received a



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— Rosie Middendorf

care package when he was in the seminary. This was before Rosie belonged to St. Hubert's.

This last year, the women also worked with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women to box up items called Boxes of Joy to be mailed to children in need across the United States and the world. They also collect card fronts, which are sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Nevada. Anytime the Christian Women have to mail

items, St. Frederick's pays for postage. It's an arrangement they've had for years. Parishioners usually come to help pack the boxes.

Rosie is thankful for all this group can accomplish. She's also grateful for the friends she's made along the way.

"We all have our downtime, and we are there for one another," she says. "Even if we don't see each other every month, we are still there for one another. It's a family."

To get involved with the St. Hubert Christian Women's Ministry, contact Rosie Middendorf at 218-445-7004.

A Letter From Our Pastor

Honoring Our Lady *in May*

Dear Parishioners,

May is Mary's month. For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to the Blessed Mother in their activities during May. Best known, I'm sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers during the month.

May is a beautiful month, full of renewal and hope. The March winds and the April showers have done their work, and the spring flowers are in bloom. Even though the earliest signs of spring have passed, May doesn't quite have the look or feel of summer. It is spring at its finest! And it's not only the flowers or trees that show new life in May. For many students, May is the month to prepare for graduations, and these students will soon move on to new phases in their lives.

And of course, May is a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. We spend the whole month this year in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost on May 28. The joy of the Resurrection, the glory of the Ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit are the themes that fill our Christian calendar.

But as we rejoice with Mary at her Son's triumph over sin, Satan, and death, we remember her faithfulness to God's will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model Christian steward. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in its pastoral letter on stewardship: "After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 41).

Let us follow her example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us this month!

In Christ,

Fr. Aaron Kuhn

Fr. Aaron





Sacred Heart Summer Academy

A Fun and Safe Place

As the weather warms and vacation plans are underway, Sacred Heart Area School is already preparing for its second-annual Summer Academy.

“Our Summer Academy offers children a safe place to grow academically and have fun with friends,” says Principal William Liedl. “More fun than summer school but with more learning than a typical summer daycare program. In my opinion, it’s the perfect combination of the two.”

As Mr. Liedl notes, the Summer Academy program began for two reasons.

“Firstly, it’s intended to provide a safe childcare option for parents who worked and needed to find a place for their child, and secondly, to stall or

reverse the significant loss of academic skills during the summer months,” Mr. Liedl says.

Oftentimes when summer rolls around, students suffer from what Mr. Liedl calls the “summer slump,” losing a significant amount of the skills they had gained during the previous school year due to a lack of practice and exposure. He sees this happen particularly in the areas of math and reading.

“The summer break is a very long period of time for elementary students and many kids don’t pick up a pencil or a book during that time period,” Mr. Liedl says. “As a result, many students see their reading and math skills take a significant step backward.”

The Summer Academy also helps students physically as they participate in many different activities throughout the program.

“Maintaining a schedule during the summer months leads to better sleep patterns and makes the transition from summer to a new school year easier for all parties,” Mr. Liedl says. “Also, making sure that we have a variety of activities — last year we had a different sport and academic theme each week — keeps kids physically and mentally engaged and away from screens.”

A new parent to the school had approached Mr. Liedl and asked if the school had any kind of summer program.

“We didn’t, so I thought, ‘Why not start one?’” he says. “We put out some feelers, planned a budget, secured the staff, and then created a curriculum.”

The summer program starts on June 5 and runs to Aug. 25, with a few days off around the July 4 holidays. It runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and meals are included as part of the program. Each day, there are at least two



My Gearing up for Second Year

to Grow Academically

outdoor physical activities, two in-class academic activities, an art project, a teacher-led lesson relating to a theme, individual reading time, and creative indoor playtime.

“We also take a few walking field trips, usually once a week, having daily prayer time, and visit the community center on swimming days,” Mr. Liedl says. “Our youngest students have a naptime scheduled around 1 p.m.”

The Summer Academy is open to the entire Staples area community, though most

participants are also students at Sacred Heart. Mr. Liedl says the participating students stay busy and engaged throughout the summer — a significant benefit to the program.

“In the year we have done it, we have seen higher scores with our standardized testing for those who have participated,” Mr. Liedl says. “Also, knowing that your child is interacting with friends in a safe and Catholic environment is a much better alternative than having them spend their summers attached to a screen.”



To enroll or find out more information about the program,
email Mr. Liedl at principal@sacredheartareaschool.org or
Ms. Jessi at secretary@sacredheartareaschool.org.



Formation

Transformed Through Christ

“Jesus not only calls people to him but also forms them and sends them out in his service.”

From Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

This month, we are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship — formation. Formation is the process of studying Christ's teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a lifelong effort by which we “put on Christ” (Rom 13:14) and are “transformed by the renewal of our minds” (Rom 12:2).

Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to “discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God's will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like Him — as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

Formation is not just an individual task. Instead, it is a communal responsibility that, when applied, will further help our faith community to grow in stewardship. Each one of us has an inherent need to give — to move from “selfishness to selflessness,” as the Diocese of Wichita's document *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* aptly states. Formation is a

process of spiritual growth, and it leads to a deeper understanding of loving others as God loves us.

Naturally, then, our Catholic formation should not end upon celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, or turning 18 years old. Formation is a formidable task that we as Catholics should participate in for the duration of our lives. It involves “education of the mind and conversion of the heart” (*The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*), and helps us to lead the stewardship way of life rather than just understand it.

As we approach summer, why not make formation a part of your renewal to Christ? Start off by reading 10 minutes of Sacred Scripture a day, or by studying a chapter of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on a daily basis. Read a biography of your favorite saint for an example of an individual who lived as a disciple of Christ, and use this person as a role model when tending to your daily tasks. Keep an eye on our weekly parish bulletin for faith formation opportunities at the parish. Before long, your commitment to formation will lead you to naturally live the Catholic faith and understand stewardship in ways that you never imagined before.



St. Michael

Building Project:

Fostering Worship for Our Community of Faith

Big changes are coming to the St. Michael campus in Motley! These changes will meet the needs of our parish family while maintaining the integrity and history of our beautiful church. The Building Committee has put great thought and care into solving practical problems in the parish while always keeping in mind the ultimate purpose of the church — to come together and worship God.

Nick Trout stepped in to help educate and fundraise. The building project captured his attention as he realized how much it would benefit the parish.

“I’m a St. Michael parishioner who has been watching this project for a while,” Nick says. “I became interested and excited and I want it to be successful. Then I saw a need to renew and revitalize the fundraising efforts.”

The project will build a narthex onto the front of the church, expanding the current small entryway into a large and useful space with handicapped access, restrooms, and room for events and overflow seating. While these were the practical issues that the Building Committee faced, they approached the solution knowing that they wanted to maintain the beautiful stone façade, the stained glass, and the architecture we see in the nave of the church.

“We’re not building a pole barn, we’re building a church,” Nick says. “Churches are built intentionally and they’re meant to direct us toward worship and prayer. That was always an important piece. We need to do something that is beautiful and speaks to the purpose of the church building.”

The new narthex will add 30 feet of length to the front of the church. This space will lend itself to community events including coffee and donuts, will make weddings more comfortable, and will bring ease to holding wakes at the church. When the church overflows with parishioners — a blessing in disguise — rather than resorting to the basement of the church, overflow seating will be available in the narthex, allowing parishioners to feel much closer to the Mass.

This extra space will give all of us a chance to gather ourselves as we approach the sacrament of the altar. Rather than

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C/O The Church of St. Ann
514 1st Street SE | Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-1593 | www.marysacc.org



Saturday:

4:00 p.m. - St. John the Baptist, Bluffton
4:00 p.m. - St. Hubert, Bluegrass
6:00 p.m. - St. Frederick, Verndale
6:30 p.m. - Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga

Sunday:

8:00 a.m. - St. Joseph, Bertha
8:30 a.m. - Sacred Heart, Staples
10:00 a.m. - St. Ann, Wadena **livestream*
10:30 a.m. - St. Michael, Motley

St. Michael Building Project *continued from page 7*

rushing from outside to inside, it will give us a moment to recollect ourselves.

“You’ll get the opportunity to come into the narthex and have a chance to breathe, then walk into the nave,” Nick says. “It will move very seamlessly.”

Inside the narthex, the stained glass cross will be a strong focal point and the stone façade of the original church will lend its beauty to the whole room, inviting

parishioners into the nave of the church for worship.

While plans are in place for the project to begin, fundraising efforts are ongoing. There will be special fundraising events throughout the year to bring the community together on this important project. Donations can be made directly through the ACC website by selecting the Building Capital Campaign or may be mailed or placed in the offering.

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For more information about the building project, visit www.marysacc.org/motley.