

PARISH PROFILE

St Hubert: With their new parish hall, Langley Parish has a lot to celebrate

St. Hubert sees their hard work pay off with a brand new facility that serves their whole parish

BY TERRY MURPHY

On a brilliant spring day in the small town of Langley, located on Whidbey Island, Archbishop Alex Brunett celebrated Mass and then blessed St. Hubert's new parish hall. In his homily, the Archbishop said, "This represents a new beginning. These buildings make people feel welcome." Father Rick Spicer, named pastor in 2003, was thrilled to see this day. "I'm delighted with this new building. The parish worked long and hard and never gave up until the dream was realized."

Several years in the making, this dream was realized, "because this parish is so generous," Marcia Halligan, pastoral associate said. "If you present a need, they meet it." So much so, there's only a debt of \$137,000 left on a project that cost 1.5 million dollars.

That generosity extends beyond the parish. In 2006, St. Hubert was 193% over their Annual Catholic Appeal goal. "This is a tribute to wisely using their resources from the Annual Catholic Appeal," Archbishop Brunett said. "A tremendous refund each year makes possible many wonderful projects."

The parish center is comprised of several new offices, a conference room, state-of-the-art kitchen, meditation garden, and a huge reception area called Read Hall — named for Deacon Read who was a driving force behind the project. The new area provides much needed space for anniversaries and funeral receptions. Shirley Simmons, long-time parishioner, said of the new facility, "It allows us to do so many more things." Conrad Von Doran, member of the Pastoral Council, ob-

served the packed hall and said, "This has brought our parish together. We've always been a community, a family, but now we have a place to celebrate."

Parish History

St. Hubert, named after the patron saint of hunting, started out as a mission established by Archbishop Shaughnessy in 1938. In those early days, Catholics went door-to-door to invite fellow Catholics to church. Whidbey Island was populated mostly by dairy farmers and livestock. According to Simmons, "A priest would have to come from Everett by boat to celebrate Mass."

"Back then, as a small friendly community, they had a lot of salmon dinners and fish fries," Halligan said. That tradition of hospitality continues from those humble beginnings to now with a parish of 475 registered households.

In 1966, St. Hubert parish was established by Archbishop Thomas A. Connelly, who appointed Father August Royer as the first pastor. Serving for twelve years, Father Franklin Lott, was the longest serving pastor. According to Halligan, Father Lott made great strides for the parish and brought the parish into the post Vatican church era. "Altars were turned to face the congregation," Halligan said, "And Fr. Lott brought things up to current theology."

Sharing the gifts

St Hubert is a small parish with a big heart. Outreach programs include Women of St. Hubert, or WOSH, dedicated to serving the needy on Whidbey Island. Whether it's the food bank or a children's reading program, St. Hubert shares its gifts. According to Halligan, the parish donates about \$14,000 a year to the Langley community.

South Whidbey is populated by many retirees and weekend visitors, and the parish reflects that. There were

Parish Snapshot

Founded: 1966

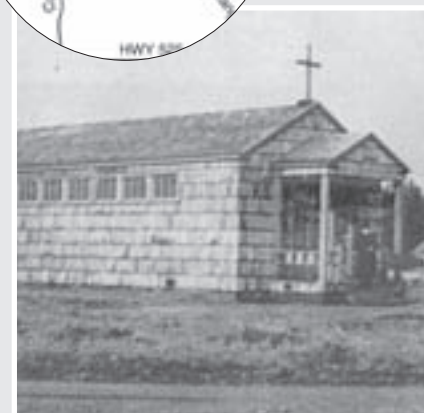
Registered Households: 475

Address:
15 Saratoga, Langley, WA 98260

Phone: (360) 221-5383

Pastors:

Rev. August Royer (1966-1977)
Rev. Max Murray (1977-1978)
Rev. Franklin Lott (1978-1990)
Rev. Karl Kroll (1990-1992)
Rev. Gerald Moffat (1992-2002)
Rev. Richard Spicer (2003-present)



only seven children in St. Hubert's First Communion class this year. The youth group is 24 members strong, often serving across the water. "We're building a strong faith foundation by working in Seattle with the homeless," Youth Director, Molly Jacobson said.

Beautiful place to serve

Whidbey Island's breathtaking views and rolling countryside attract many weekenders and tourists. St. Hubert Church and its new parish center extend a welcome to all who visit. "This

place makes it possible to extend hospitality to not only those here regularly, but also the many visitors," Archbishop Brunett said as he admired the new building.

Father Spicer describes Langley as a beautiful place to serve. "The spirit of South Whidbey, the tranquility of the setting and the rural feel of the community make this a great place to live and serve." He added, "It's world away from Seattle." A flock of sheep grazing across the street from the church are proof of that.



Fr. Richard Spicer, left, pastor of St. Hubert parish in Langley, welcomed Archbishop Alex J. Brunett as he celebrated Mass and dedicated the new parish hall on April 22.