



# Saint William

CATHOLIC CHURCH

[www.saintwilliams.org](http://www.saintwilliams.org)

620 Round Rock West Drive

Round Rock, Texas 78681

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January 10, 2014

Dear Future Children's Adoration Leaders,

St. William is a thriving parish community of over six thousand families with a goal of helping our parishioners grow in the spirit of Christ and our Catholic faith. We are intentional in the development, nourishment, and outreach of that faith.

A few years ago, Pope Benedict XVI said, "With the Synod Assembly, therefore, I heartily recommend to the Church's pastors and to the People of God the practice of Eucharistic Adoration, both individually and in community." Pope Benedict XVI, February 22, 2007, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation. Several years earlier, Blessed Pope John Paul II said, "I urge priests, religious, and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generation the meaning and the value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion." Pope John Paul II, 28th May, 1996. Our Popes are telling us of the importance of Eucharistic Adoration for all Catholics, both young and old.

*Guided Children's Adoration* is one of the ways St William fulfills Pope Benedict's and Blessed Pope John Paul II's recommendations of Eucharistic Adoration and intentionally helps our children, our future, grow in their love of Christ and their Catholic faith. *Guided Children's Adoration* educates our youth to the value of spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, teaches them how they can use their time before the Blessed Sacrament, and deepens their relationship with Christ. Pope Benedict XVI has expressed appreciation of parishes educating the faithful: "I thank the Lord because many parishes, as well as celebrating Holy Mass devoutly, are educating the faithful in Eucharistic Adoration" (Pope Benedict XVI, November 9, 2006, address to Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congress).

As a presider at numerous *Guided Children's Adoration*, I have seen firsthand the Eucharistic devotion created in our children. It is a wonderful experience to spend time with our children as they are adoring our Lord.

Guided Children's Adoration grew in our parish in the fall of 2007 from smaller sessions to include our very large Religious Education program. We have over 1500 children in our RE program. Every school year, the RE classes attend at least one Adoration session. Over a 1500 students each year, spending time with Jesus!

Melissa Kirking is the St William Coordinator of Children's Adoration. Melissa does an excellent job of guiding our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children, Elementary RE students, and additional parish wide Children's Adorations using her *Guided Children's Adoration* plans.

I recommend *Guided Children's Adoration* as a program to help children grow in their friendship with Christ and their Catholic faith. It is a positive and intentional way to educate our Catholic youth in Eucharistic Adoration as requested by our popes. Adoration keeps our youth rooted in the Love of Christ, encourages strong faith in challenging times, and greatly pleases our Lord.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Wilhelm".

Rev. Dean E. Wilhelm, Pastor  
St. William Catholic Church