



# Footnotes

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC PARISH

DEC 2021

COME

# HOLY SPIRIT

# FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL





# ADVENT HELPS US TO PREPARE



Fr. Steve celebrated Confirmation with Ann Grady Kopf and her family along with Archbishop Rodi and Fr. Gil.

by Fr. Steven T. Williams

Advent is upon us. It is a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of Our Savior. It is a joy-filled time in our society. There are several Church programs to help in our preparation for Christmas. Our Penance service is Wednesday December 15th at 6pm.

Please keep all of those in religious formation in your prayers. Forty youth were confirmed at St. Lawrence by Archbishop Rodi, and more than 30 parish children are preparing for First Penance and First Communion. There are fifteen in RCIA, who participated in the Rite of Welcoming on Sunday, November 28th.

The Christmas schedule is listed on the back page. I offer prayers for a Holy & Merry Christmas to all.



Fr. Steve welcomes our newest parishioners.

## WE WARMLY WELCOME OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

KATHERINE & HOWARD EDDY

JAMES & PEGGY McENERY

JAMES & KATHERINE GIATTINA

JEREMY & JULIETA BECK WITH DIEGO, PABLO

DANIEL & JANET BROOKS

JAMES & ANNIE HARTLEY, JR.

THOMAS & LYNN KENDALL

WITH JILLIAN, NOAH, SETH OWEN, IAN

ROBERT & ELLEN WIEDERHOLD

JESSIE HEINRICH



St. Lawrence Catholic Church Presents

## GREECE PILGRIMAGE

In the Footsteps of St. Paul

With Fr. Steve Williams

Includes a 3 Day Greek Isle Cruise  
Prices starting at \$4,399



October 4-14, 2022

Informational Meeting  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 @ 6:00PM  
SETON ROOM (LIBRARY)  
Contact Lise Galle for more information.

*All are invited to the*  
**16TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!**

We are so excited that our Parish Christmas Bazaar is almost here! There is no admission cost and something fun for everyone. Proceeds benefit the ministries of St. Lawrence, and also our local community.

Don't let our large silent auction pass you by, featuring over 150 items with a virtual bidding option! Parishioner virtual preview is open before the public Monday, November 29th until Thursday, December 2nd at <https://2021Bazaar.givesmart.com>

**ST. LAWRENCE**  
*16<sup>th</sup> Annual*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Bazaar*

**Saturday, December 4, 2021**

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**9:00am – 3:00pm**

370 S Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532

*Featuring*

**VIRTUAL AUCTION WITH ONLINE BIDDING**

December 3rd – Auction Preview Online

**BIDDING HOURS:**

December 4th at 9:00am

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December 5th at 2:30pm

*Visit [stlawrencechristmasbazaar.com](http://stlawrencechristmasbazaar.com)*

**EVENT SPONSORS**

Bodē Handmade Soaps | Emily Revere Artist | Creatively Yours | Spanish Fort Soaps & Gifts  
Glo's Scented Candles | Zapah Naturals | K&A Interiors | Bertagnolli Creative | Jake's Chili Starter

**OVER 30 LOCAL VENDORS WITH UNIQUE ART, CRAFTS AND ANTIQUES**

**STOP FOR LUNCH AT THE CHRISTMAS CAFE**

**LARGE & SMALL GIFT BASKETS**

**PURCHASE FROZEN HOMEMADE GUMBOS AND CASSEROLES**

**NANA'S CLOSET FULL OF PURSES & JEWELRY**

**BAKE SALE BOOTH WITH SWEET TREATS LIKE CANDIED NUTS & CANDIED APPLES**

**CRAFTS FOR KIDS AND A BOUNCY HOUSE**



# FINDING VALUE IN GIVING AND RECEIVING

Where did the Fall Semester go? Christmas is right around the corner, and the Christmas Bazaar is sure to be a blast for Edge! It will be great to see so many parishioners come out and support the vendors.

This year Edge students made a Nativity craft with stones on a small canvas, and really showed off their individual creativity in the colors and shapes of stones they selected to represent the Holy Family. I was particularly impressed with how consistent the craft was this year. It looked like the sort of thing you could buy in a store! Many craft volunteers complimented the dual-use craft, which could be hung like an ornament or put on a tiny easel stand for display.

Edge students always express how thankful they are for our program around this time of year, and even more so now that the world feels almost normal again. We cannot thank our parishioners, parents and grandparents enough for supporting our Edge program! It shows how valued and appreciated our young people are, which is fitting, since they are the future of the Church.

Please continue to keep our Edge students and their families in your prayers, and know that we continue to pray for you as well.

In Christ,  
Stephen Sylvester



Henry was super focused on making a great nativity.



Olivia, Emily, Abigail and Viktoria show off their creativity.



The Edge boys show off their nativity crafts proudly!

# HOW TO MAKE A BETTER CONFESSION

by Fr. Gil Pierre

In my experience, people tend to get nervous about going to Confession because they are afraid of not knowing what to do. Below are a few tips from my own experience and the

experience of a few other priests. St. Lawrence offers Confession on Saturdays from 4:30-5:00 pm and on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm.

## 1

### EXAMINE YOUR CONSCIENCE.

The first step for a good confession is to examine your conscience for sins committed since your last confession. This should happen in a spirit of prayer before coming to Confession. If you have trouble thinking of sins, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the sins you should confess.

## 2

### BE NOT AFRAID!

There can often be a spirit of fear surrounding the Sacrament of Confession. We can often think that the priest will be shocked by our sins or that our sins are too bad to say out loud. As someone who sits on the other side of the confessional, I will tell you that I am rarely shocked by what I hear. The devil is not creative and tends to use the same temptations. Don't let fear stand in the way of a good confession!

## 3

### DON'T WORRY ABOUT KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT TO DO.

If you have trouble remembering how to go to confession, simply tell the priest. He will be happy to walk you through the process.

## 4

### MAKE A COMPLETE CONFESSION.

The Church asks us to make a complete confession. This means that we should confess all of our mortal sins in number and in kind. That means naming the specific sin and saying around how many times we committed it. Venial sins may be confessed more generally and according to how often we struggle with them.

## 5

### BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS.

If there are more than a few people in line, then it is good to be mindful of not making too long of a confession. Of course there are good reasons to make a longer confession. You might be confessing after a long time away from the sacrament or may have committed a sin that needs some counsel.

## 6

### FOCUS ON CONFESSING YOUR OWN SINS.

Confession isn't a time to talk about the sins of others. Focus on where you need God's mercy the most and talk about that.

## Fall & Christmas



## Wreaths & Centerpieces

### Supporting St. Lawrence Family Ministry

St. Lawrence will get 15% of all purchases. Order now and select delivery date.

Go to [www.stlawrencefamilyministry.com](http://www.stlawrencefamilyministry.com) or scan the QR Code for your purchase to count.



## 7

### LIMIT STORIES.

For most situations, stories aren't necessary to convey the sins being confessed. Brief explanations may be needed sometimes, but we should always stay focused on the sins we commit.

## 8

### DON'T STRESS OVER REPEATED SINS.

Don't worry about confessing the same sins again and again. Part of growing in the Christian life means conquering habitual sins. This takes time and we need to remember to be patient with ourselves.

## 9

### GO TO CONFESSION REGULARLY.

Confession becomes easier when you make it a regular part of your spiritual life.

## 10

### TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY!

Confession is above all an encounter with God's mercy. Trust that God has forgiven your sins and will provide you with His grace.

# CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

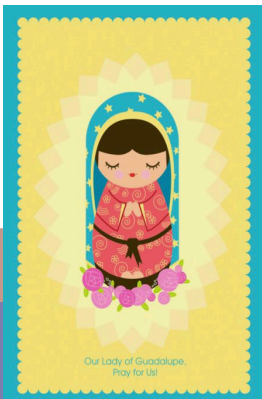
## IT WAS A SAINT'S DAY CELEBRATION!



CRE celebrated All Saints Day on Sunday, October 31st in the gym during CRE classes. The children were able to attend dressed as a saint of their choice. They learned about the different stages a person goes through to become a saint. They played "Saints Bingo" and enjoyed donuts and juice. It was a

wonderful day to celebrate all the holy men and women in our Catholic Church. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Children's Religious Education classes, please contact Amy Duncan at [cre@stlawrencefairhope.com](mailto:cre@stlawrencefairhope.com).





# TREASURES TRAVELS TO BILOXI AREA LOCAL ARTISTRY AND MARY MAHONEY'S WAS GREAT FUN

Treasures had a wonderful trip to the Biloxi area visiting two of the art museums there. The first stop was the Walter Anderson Museum of Art. The museum is dedicated to the preservation and celebration of artist-philosopher Walter Anderson with many of his paintings, drawings, sculptures, and carvings. Our next stop was at the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art. This museum had many collections including those of George Ohr, the "mad potter" of Biloxi. His pottery wasn't rediscovered until over 50 years after his death in 1910. His pieces are varied and unique reflecting a wide array of lifestyles and experiences as later dabbled in creating unique shapes and colors. The clay Ohr used throughout his career was sourced from the local Tchoutacabouffa River. It was a wonderful day topped off with a tremendous meal shared at Mary Mahoney's. We are looking forward to our Christmas luncheon and our December trips coming up soon!



Our group enjoyed an extensive guided tour of the Walter Anderson Museum. There was a wide variety of his art mediums on display.



Anderson's artwork titled, *Sissy at the Table*.



Anderson's large mural titled, *Horn Island*.





Fr. Steve reads about Walter Anderson's life.



Martha Hohl looks over one of Anderson's many sculptures.



Darlene Sommer browses through some of the Ohr-O'Keefe pottery.



Anderson's Little Room was a sanctuary to him, when not surrounded by his love and muse in nature.



# WE FINALLY GATHER AND WELCOME OUR NEW PARISHIONERS



In late October, St. Lawrence was finally able to host new parishioners who have joined our parish since the Spring of 2020. Fr. Steve and the Welcoming Committee prepared an excellent meal that was delicious and filling! More importantly, we were overjoyed to gather together and appreciate the beauty and growth of our parish family.

Fr. Steve took time to share about St. Lawrence's ministries and events as well as his vision for our parish. We appreciate all those who came and joined us as well as the Welcoming Committee for offering their time and energy to appreciate our newest members. Please pray for the continued growth and holiness of St. Lawrence Parish!







2021

# Confirmation



Richard Favret with his sponsor Robert Favret.



Bridget Atkinson with her sponsor Beth Caldwell.



Tiziri Bouriche with her sponsor Andrea Hart.

Emma Gutterrez with her sponsor Kathleen King.



Asa Evans with his sponsor Edward Charnok, his parents, Archbishop Rodi, Fr. Gil, and Fr. Steve.



St. Lawrence was thrilled to witness the Confirmation of 39 of our young people from the parish recently. Archbishop Rodi joined us to confer the sacraments on these young adults as they rise up and become more firmly rooted and formed in the Jesus Christ. We hope that you will pray for all the newly confirmed and their families. Group photo opposite page:

## St. Lawrence Catholic Church Confirmation + November 7th, 2021

Bottom, Left to Right: Emma Gutterrez, Olivia Cole, Emma Buss, Mary Frances Brady, Callie Martin, Laurel Walker, Fr. Steven Williams, Archbishop Thomas Rodi, Fr. Gilbert Pierre, Lily Roach, Morgan Blackinton, Mary-Camila Klotz, Ann Grady Kopf, Grace Murphy, Caroline Jaye, Mary Grace Brown

Middle Left to Right: Asa Evans, Ayden Garner, Luke Gilmore, Tiziri Bouriche, Delaney Hart, Marguerite Cowles, Bridget Adkinson, Madeline Markey, Ava Cocke, Tommi Fahy, Mary Elizabeth Roh, Mason Dutton, Hank Miner, Joseph Lilley, Kathleen King

Top Left to Right: Sam Dutton, Jackson May, Richard Favret, Josh Murphy, Copeland Bowman, Porter Savarese, Sam Murray, Tradd McDaniel, Sullivan Stankoski, Edgar Garcia-Caldera, Josh Kurz, Robert Morris



Mary Elizabeth Roh with her sponsor Susan Roh and family, along with Archbishop Rodi, Fr. Steve, and Fr. Gil.



Ava Cocke with her sponsor John Cocke III.



ALL ARE INVITED!

# FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH FAMILY DINNER

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH  
ST. LAWRENCE ROOM & PATIO  
6:00PM - 8:00PM

Fr. Gil will lead us in prayer to entrust our families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary following the 5:30pm mass.

Enjoy gumbo & hot chocolate  
Advent craft table for kids!

Please bring a side, appetizer, or dessert to share with our parish family!

# ALL ARE INVITED TO THE PARISH FAMILY DINNER DECEMBER 8TH 6:00 - 8:00 PM

All are invited for a parish family dinner in celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Advent season. We will begin serving chicken and sausage gumbo at 6:00pm in the St. Lawrence Room. Those attending the 5:30pm Mass are more than welcome to join us afterward! Fr. Gil will lead us all in the blessing entrusting our families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary following the 5:30pm Mass on the patio. There will be hot chocolate and Advent crafts for kids to enjoy. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share with our parish family. Hope to see you all there!



If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.

John 13: 14-17

*We pray for our fellow  
parishioners who have entered  
into eternal rest:*

Dorothy Balzli Ford

Dorothy Lee Herides





# WE CANNOT LET THE MESSAGE OF LIFE GO UNHEARD



“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.”

-St. Pope John Paul II

Right now, we have a historic opportunity to protect human life. On Wednesday, December 1st, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health*, a legal challenge to Mississippi’s law that bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. We cannot let the message of LIFE go unheard.

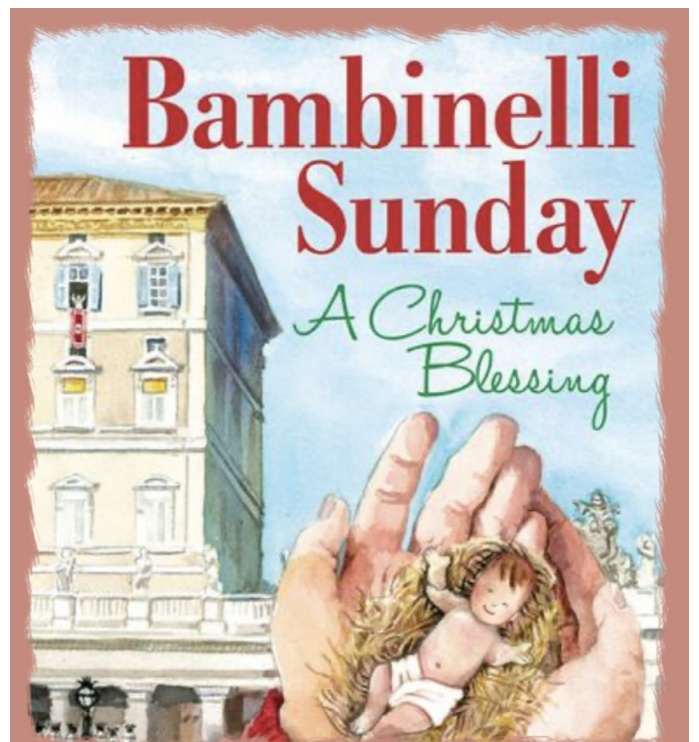
Millions of preborn lives are at stake. They literally depend on the outcome of this case which will challenge *Roe v. Wade* itself. This case can actually determine whether or not *Roe v. Wade* will be reversed and whether abortion can be banned by the states.

We all need to come together in prayer asking our dear Lord to hear our plea to end abortion. Please continue to fast & pray and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Photo above: Fr. Steve celebrated a Mass for Life to conclude the Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign.



Parishioners Mimi Henning, Elizabeth Henning and Karen Urbanek join Fr. Gil at the annual Women’s Health Center Banquet to show support for life.



## DECEMBER 12

Children are encouraged to bring the Christ Child from their Nativity sets to Mass at St. Lawrence on Sunday, December 12 at the 9AM & 11AM Masses for a special blessing.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church Footnotes  
370 S. Section Street  
Fairhope, AL 36532

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## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Friday, December 24th

Confessions 12:00-1:00 PM  
Children's Mass 4:30 PM  
Christmas Vigil 8:00 PM  
Mass at Midnight 12:00 AM

### Saturday, December 25th

Mass of the Nativity of our  
Lord Jesus Christ  
10:00 AM

\*No 5:30 PM Mass Offered

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, December 31st at 5:30 PM  
Saturday, January 1st at 8:30 AM