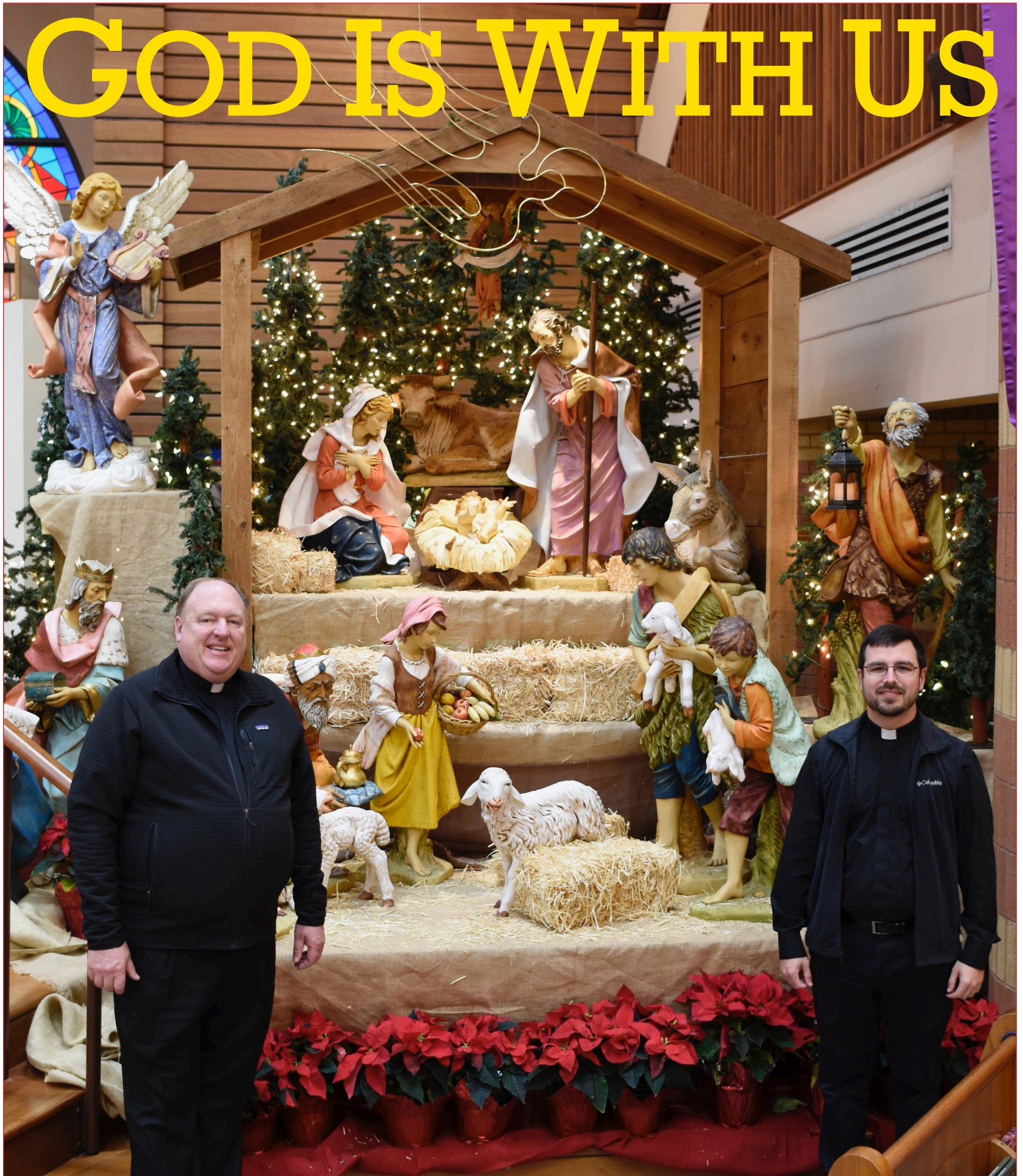




Footnotes

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC PARISH

JANUARY 2021



REJOICING IN THE LORD AS WE MOVE INTO A NEW YEAR



by Fr. Steven T. Williams

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! January is the pro-life month. We take the time to thank God for the gift of life and we also pray for an end to abortion. This year the young people of St. Lawrence will not be traveling to Washington DC, but will hold a vigil on January 21st.

January also brings us the annual Catholic Charities Appeal. We appreciate all the generosity and love as you contribute to helping the poor and needy. Special thanks to the St. Lawrence Catholic Charities appeal chairpersons, Dr. Richard Roh and Tim Simmonds.

Thank you for your continued generosity throughout the year of 2020. Your tithing dollars helped St. Lawrence provide much needed ministry in the name of the Lord. In January the finance council, the parish council and staff meet to look at the needs of 2021.

Again, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Thank you also for your support of the "Generations of Faith" campaign. An update on this campaign can be found on this page.

We recognized our senior Altar Servers, they have served 8 years. We appreciate all our liturgical ministers!

Many have set forth some New Year's resolutions. There are lots of opportunities to grow closer to God!



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

STELLA BURNHAM

JOHN CARDEN

MARIE INGE



**ENDOWING
OUR FUTURE
WITH HOPE**
ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE

GENERATIONS OF FAITH PARISH GOAL

St. Lawrence has been entrusted with raising \$1,845,000 toward the Generations of Faith Campaign.

TOTAL PLEDGED

To date St. Lawrence has raised \$1,779,426, which is 96% of our Parish Goal.

HOW MANY FAMILIES HAVE PLEDGED

356 St. Lawrence families have pledged thus far out of 1408 families. That means that 25% of the families have pledged 96% of our Parish goal.

CONSIDER MAKING A PLEDGE

There is still time to make a pledge! Any amount is greatly appreciated and will get us closer to meeting our St. Lawrence goal. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge as any amount is greatly appreciated.

HOW TO MAKE A PLEDGE

You may make a pledge by calling the St. Lawrence Campaign Line at 251-270-9991 or online at <https://mobarch.org/endowment>.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT

The St. Lawrence Christmas Tree Lighting was a sweet and simple evening. The gumbo was perfect for the weather, and the hot cocoa was a delightful treat. There was a special candlelit prayer service outside of Mary's Grotto, in which Fr. Gil

led everyone in the consecration to the Holy Family. It truly was a beautiful evening of prayer in preparation for Christmas. Thank you Social Committee for your service to the parish, and thank you to everyone who attended!



What a beautiful evening for those gathered at the Grotto.



Children lay flowers at Our Lady's feet following the prayer service.

2021: A SPECIAL YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

POPE FRANCIS AND ARCHBISHOP RODI OFFER PROCLAMATIONS FOR REFLECTION AND COMMITMENT

From December 8th, 2020 to December 8th, 2021

by Fr. Gil

From time-to-time in Catholicism, popes and bishops choose to proclaim special years in the life of the Church. These special years usually call us to meditate on a certain theme in our faith. As many of you have probably heard by now, Archbishop Rodi has proclaimed this year as the Year of the Eucharist and the Parish in the Archdiocese of Mobile. It is an opportunity for us all to renew both our devotion to the Eucharist and our commitment to parish life.

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis surprised the Catholic world by proclaiming the coming year as the Year of St. Joseph for the Universal Church. This Year of St. Joseph commemorates the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX proclaiming St. Joseph as the patron of the Universal Church. In addition to this title, St. Joseph has also been invoked by a number of other titles including "Patron of Workers"; "Guardian of the Redeemer"; and "Patron of a Happy Death".

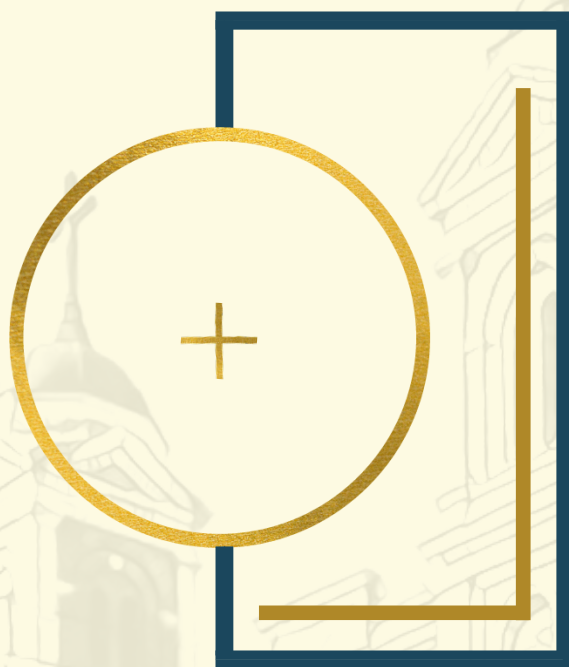
The Church recognizes that these are challenging times for us all. Now more than ever we need God's grace to strengthen us for the road ahead. May this Year of St. Joseph and Year of the Eucharist and the Parish be a source of grace for us all.

A Year of St. Joseph

On the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

HAIL, GUARDIAN OF THE REDEEMER,
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.
TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.
BLESSED JOSEPH, TO US TOO,
SHOW YOURSELF A FATHER
AND GUIDE US IN THE PATH OF LIFE.
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY, AND COURAGE,
AND DEFEND US FROM EVERY EVIL. AMEN.

STARTING ADVENT 2020



**THE YEAR OF
THE EUCHARIST
& THE PARISH**

"Take and Eat, This Is My Body."

**AN INVITATION TO A GREATER PARTICIPATION
IN THE EUCHARIST AND PARISH LIFE.**

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE

PRO-LIFE NEWS: A YEAR OF SERVICE

Check out this great opportunity for St. Lawrence Parishioners to get involved. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites parishes, through the support of their bishop and pastor, to join a nationwide effort entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service."

WHAT IS WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED?

Walking with Moms in Need is a year of service where Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. Everyone should know how to help moms in difficult circumstances. While not trying to turn Catholic parishes into pregnancy centers, we can support local pregnancy centers where they exist (To Be in Robertsedale & Women's Health Center in Spanish Fort). We have a variety of ways you can join us in this Year of Service.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN JANUARY 22ND

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." The Church directs: In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or almsgiving. At St. Lawrence, the 8:30 am Mass on Friday, January 22, will be dedicated to the Protection of the Unborn. After Mass there will be a Holy Hour which will consist of Music, Adoration & Confession. Please join us!

9 DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA JANUARY 21-29TH

9 Days for Life Novena - January 21 - 29, 2021 - 9 Days for Life Novena is designed so that Catholics all across the Nation can unite in prayer for the protection of human life. Each day for 9 days, a different intention is featured, accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related info as we pray for the respect and protection of every human life. Visit respectlife.org/9-days-for-life for more information and to sign up to receive the Novena either by email or text message from January 21-29th.

MARCH FOR LIFE MOBILE FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH

March for Life Mobile, Friday, January 29th. Join us in person at the Rally in Cathedral Square at 9:45 am with the March beginning at 10:45 am through Downtown Mobile. If you would rather participate virtually, purchase a T-shirt and race bib at www.marchforlifemobile.org. Stand up and be counted!

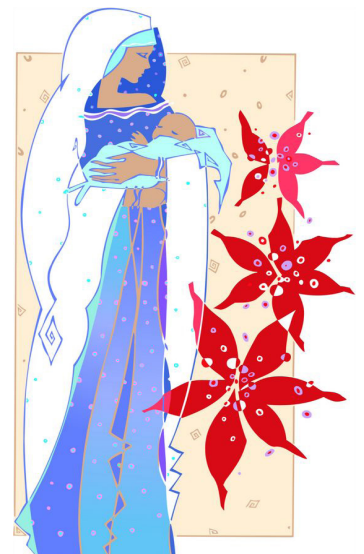
PRAY THE PRAYER FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS

Pray the Prayer for Pregnant Mothers. Prayer cards will be available in the church vestibule in January. Interested in helping with St. Lawrence's Pro-Life committee or have questions, please contact Lisa Word at 404-307-1355. For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them." Ephesians 2:1



PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN

We are now offering the opportunity to advertise your business in the weekly bulletin in print, via eblast and on Facebook. Advertising spots are first come, first served and are reserved on a quarterly basis. Reservations for April are due no later than March 19. This is a great way to support the parish and to let parishioners know about your business. Contact the parish office for more information at 251-928-5931, ext. 112.





ROOF AND STEEPLE REPAIRS UNDERWAY

Repairs to roof and the steeple have begun following damage sustained during Hurricane Sally. The beautiful copper fascia was ripped from multiple sections of the steeple and scattered around the property, it will now be sealed and restored to its original condition. Thank you to Thomas Roofing for the fine work.



LIFE TEEN

Life Teen had the best time at the 15th annual Christmas Bazaar. After a year of changing schedules and missed traditions, it was truly such a gift to be able to spend time with the parish celebrating this season. After a whirlwind week of decorating apples and sprucing up Stuardi Hall, the two days of the Bazaar were pure Christmas joy! Thank you so much to everyone who joined us at the Christmas Cafe or who purchased an apple or two! Every dollar of profit goes to our scholarship fund to help teens take part in all we have to offer.

Are you or a loved one interested in being involved in Life Teen? Send an email to Kathleen King at lifeteen@stlawrencefairhope.com for more information!



Riley Godwin and Callie Henderson helped deck Stuardi Hall.



Blake Urbin and John King worked together to hang ornaments from Stuardi's ceiling.



Our amazing Core Team makes everything possible! We love them!



Emma Gutterrez and Louis Gerald made a great team decorating caramel apples.

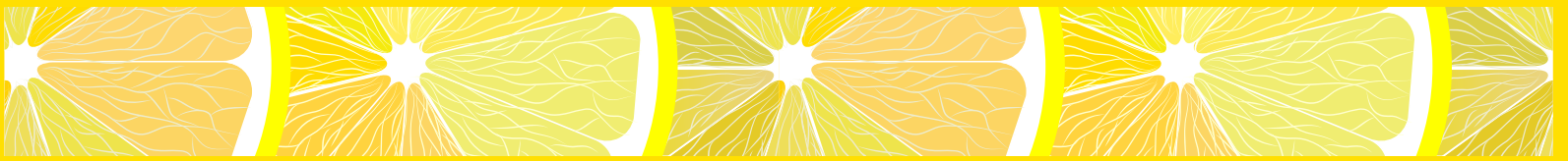


Jane Sylvester and Amelie Fitzgerald were all smiles under those masks.



Mary Camilla Klotz demonstrates perfect apple decorating technique!

EDGE LOOKS BACK AT 2020



What a year, y'all.

I won't pretend that 2020 wasn't a difficult time to do youth ministry. In fact, I might go as far as to say this past year has been the most challenging one thus far for me as a Jr. High youth minister. But amidst it all, we still managed to continue to have an in-person ministry program. We followed the Archdiocesan guidelines to the best of our ability: to serve the middle school youth of the St. Lawrence community. We made lemonade out of lemons!

This year for the Christmas Bazaar, Edge students came up with a craft that was both cute and meaningful - pine log Christmas ornaments! Many parents of Edge students ended up with a lot of branches and debris in their yards after hurricane Sally, so we collected pine branches of a similar size and re-purposed them into beautiful wood ornaments! The students decorated the ornaments themselves (sometimes using templates but being as creative as they wanted to be) and were able to make over 150 of them in record time!

The atmosphere at the Bazaar this year, although it was different with restrictions in place, still felt familiar to our volunteers who worked at the Edge booth. Young students got to sell the ornaments they had made in some cases, and we had several other beautiful items donated to sell:

hand-painted glass ornaments (admittedly painted by parents, not students), Advent boxes from the previous Bazaar, snowmen/scarecrow yard ornaments from the Bazaar before that, and a variety of baked goodies. Since the items are donated all of the proceeds from the booth go directly to the Edge program, helping us buy journals, class materials, and meals during the school year. The biggest use of the money we raise, though, is in scholarships for the summer program. So far every year because of the Bazaar we have not had to turn a single student away from a summer trip due to financial concerns. I hope that trend continues this summer for whatever trips Edge is able to go on safely.

As I look ahead to this upcoming year, it seems full of more potential and possibility than ever before. I still can't believe it's been almost six years since I started working here, and I hope that in some small way the work we do in the Edge program is helping the Kingdom of God to grow here on earth. I thank everyone who has helped our program over the years for your support - please continue to keep me, the students, and their families in your prayers. Happy 2021!

In Christ,
Stephen Sylvester



Edge students (with the help of some parents) decorated all of the wood ornaments themselves!



Hudson got super creative with his ornaments.



Freeman shows off his fine handiwork.



Emily made festive use of the metallic colors in her artwork!



Walker, Freeman, Davis, Hudson, Charlie, and Andy made quick work of about 40 ornaments!



Viktoria had a great eye for detail and interesting Christmas scenes.



Mary Elizabeth cruised through nearly a dozen ornaments by herself!



Davis took his time and was proud of the work he did.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR MINISTRIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Another successful Christmas Bazaar is in the books! It was a very different Bazaar than we've had in the past, but we still managed to create wonderful fellowship in this Advent season despite the many challenges this year has brought.

The outcome for this year far exceeded what we could have imagined considering how trying this year has been for many. Edge and Life Teen brought in \$3,176, while Family Matters and Treasures made \$1,131.75! The gift baskets, casseroles, gumbo, and decorations generated \$9,845.55 profit for the Bazaar, and the silent auction made a considerable \$10,742 with the Bazaar as a whole grossing \$24,895.30!! WOW! This could not have happened without all of you!

In 2020, the Christmas Bazaar was able to fill in the pond in Mary's Grotto, sponsor three education scholarships, make a donation to the newly ordained priests and deacon. The money made this year will provide over \$8,400 for our parish ministries, St. Vincent de Paul, \$2,000 toward continued hurricane relief, funding for three Martin Farrell Education scholarships, and the St. Michael Guardian Angel Program. Not only do we thank you for your support for this year's Bazaar, but we also thank you for your patience as well. Your participation makes it possible for us to aid our parish ministries and local community.

A HUGE thank you to the Christmas Bazaar Committee for putting in their time, talent, creativity, ideas - everything. It was a difficult adjustment with all the changes that needed to be made for this year's Bazaar, and they went above and beyond to make this event successful. Another huge thank you to Fr. Steve for all of his input and support. Keep an eye out for information on the 16th Annual Christmas Bazaar!



Santa's Workshop had beautiful baskets this year while Edge had the creative idea to make ornaments from Hurricane Sally debris.







St. Lawrence Catholic Church Footnotes
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DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

January 22nd, 2020

The 8:30am Mass on Friday, January 22, will be dedicated to the Protection of the Unborn. After Mass there will be a Holy Hour which will consist of Music, Adoration & Confession.

Please join us at St. Lawrence by attending Mass, praying the novena, or attending the rally.

