



Footnotes

St. Lawrence Catholic Parish

Fairhope, Alabama
July/August 2022



FR. STEVE WILLIAMS

SEARCH FOR GOD'S GRACE IN ALL YOU DO



Vacation Bible School was a wonderful experience. Thank you to all our volunteers, including our Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

It's hard to believe the summer is coming to a close. School will start soon and we need to keep all students, parents, teachers and coaches in our prayers.

As Fall approaches there are many adult education opportunities ahead. Please take advantage of these classes.

MEET OUR NEW SACRISTAN, DREW DONOVAN



I'm thrilled to be joining the wonderful St. Lawrence family as your new full-time sacristan. I'm originally from a small town in Connecticut, and attended school up there as well. It was while in college when I had a reversion back to my Catholic faith. I saw the joy and personal love our Catholic faith offers in such a profound way that I was inspired to become a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary. After serving for two years on two different campuses I met my now wife, Alli through FOCUS. She is a native of Fairhope. After FOCUS, I was privileged to get into youth ministry and served as Director of Youth Ministry for two Connecticut parishes. Then I became the Youth Director at St. Mary's in Mobile for a couple years. Alli and I have been married for a little more than two years now and have a little baby girl, Rosie.

As your Sacristan, I will be serving the parish by preparing our beautiful church for Holy Mass as well as baptisms and weddings. Being this close to our Lord in the sacraments is a wonderful opportunity; one that I am tremendously grateful for. I would love to share more of my faith story with you and would love to hear yours as well. Please do not hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself.

In Christ,
Drew Donovan
sacristan@stlawrencefairhope.com

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

HERE ARE WAYS TO HELP

Christmas Bazaar News

Donate

Items for the silent auction!

- Use of a Condo or Bay House
- Tickets, Items, Services, or Gift Cards from your favorite business
- New children's books

*Donations should be brand new items or in excellent condition

Items for baskets!

hot cocoa, tea, coffee, Keurig refills, scented candles, lotions, baking cookware & utensils, large baskets

Sponsor

Advertise for your business by purchasing a \$50 advertisement! Email Afton for more information.

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Opportunities

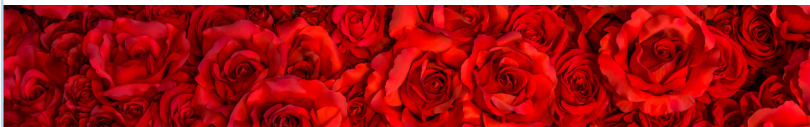
Gumbo Presale

Casserole Packets

New Bazaar Event Reveal!!

Donation bins located in Parish Office and Church Vestibule

Contact Afton Sylvester with questions
251-517-5295 or events@stlawrencefairhope.com



FR. STEVE & FR. GIL PRIEST CELEBRATION 35 YEARS

St. Lawrence hosted a lunch to celebrate the priests of our parish in late May. Together Fr. Steve and Fr. Gil have a combined 35 years of priestly ministry for the Lord (31 years for Fr. Steve and 4 years for Fr. Gil).

We were happy to entertain a large turnout of parishioners and friends to Fr. Steve and Fr. Gil. The food was an excellent fried chicken lunch with a perfect array of fixins. It was the right time to thank our priests for all they do for our parish. We also prepared to say goodbye to Fr. Gil, who has been appointed pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Opelika, AL.





TREASURES TRIP TO NOLA

ENJOYS AMAZING DIGITAL VAN GOGH EXHIBIT

Treasures enjoyed taking part in the Van Gogh Immersive Experience in New Orleans for their final Treasures trip of the year. The displays and projections brought the paintings to life in an unimaginable way. The exhibit led you to have a good understanding of Vincent Van Gogh, the many phases and ways of life he experienced, and how that all manifested in the different phases of his work. It was unlike anything any of us had ever seen. The experience culminated in a large room with digitally projected artwork of Van Gogh's on the walls in a way that came alive and animated the entire space. Many of our group sat there for over a half an hour taking in the varying animations and artworks. The exhibit is being advertised as being available in Pensacola soon if you are interested in seeing it yourself. See you all for more Treasures fun in the Fall!



TREASURES CARD PARTY & LUNCH

IT WAS ALL FUN & GAMES FOR A GREAT CAUSE



Treasures hosted another successful Charity Card Party & Luncheon to close out their 2021-2022 season of gatherings and events. There were festive games of bridge, dominos, gin rummy, spades, hearts, and much more! The Chicken Salad lunch was a wonderful treat that hit the spot on a beautiful early summer day! We would like to thank all of the volunteers who offered so much of their time and talents to make this event successful year after year. We are delighted to announce that \$4,645.00 was raised to support the St. Michael Catholic High School Scholarship Fund. It is an annual effort to host the card party and we look forward to everyone joining us next year.



OUR PARISH • OUR FAITH

Our Sacraments

New Parishioners

EVAN AND CASEY GEERTS
WITH NOAH, ELLIE AND GRAHAM

EDWARD AND JESSIE GRIFFITH SR.
WITH WELLS & TEDDY

NORMAN RODGERS

ANDREW AND CAITLEN BABB
WITH PATRICK, HENRY, GEORGE & JANE

LAWRENCE AND ANITA DUDLEY

LAWRENCE AND ANNE HIRSCHFELDT

THOMAS TURNAGE & CATHERINE DONAHUE

PHILIP AND KATHERINE COLE-TYSON
WITH JOHN PORTER

PAUL AND LEIGH ANN DUFF

GRIFFIN AND ALLISON GERSONDE
WITH LILY & LAWSON

JOHN AND BRENDA PISARKIEWICZ

DAVID AND LEIGH FRIEDEL
WITH EMILY & DAVID

DONELI EDELER

JACOB AND DANIELLE SERAGLIO
WITH ARLO & EVIE

JOHN AND WENDY MUNDY

Weddings

CHRIS ADAMS & BRADLEY MIDKIFF

GAINES BATES & ELLEN DOUGLAS

WILLIAM CRASTO & HALEY HEEBE

MICHEAL GILSTRAP & SUSANNE WEISS

PATRICK ABELE & MARGARET COURTNEY

MICHAEL DAVES & KAITLIN SIMISON

Baptisms

JOHN DANIEL PALESANO
SON OF ROSS AND MARGARET PALESANO

Deaths

Lavinia Dean - 5/14/2022

Augustin "Mike" Pintarelli - 6/2/2022

Anna Katherine Crabtree - 6/4/2022

Charles Job - 7/16/2022

WELCOME

EDGE

What an amazing summer!

This year Edge ministry came back with serious energy - a packed schedule of trips, activities, and retreats for our middle school youth.

It is still truly amazing to watch the growth process for our young students as the summer goes by. Many rising 6th graders went on their first Edge trip ever to Waterville, feeling nervous about the experience, wondering how they would be treated by the older kids. That trip is usually a good test to see how well our Edge up-graders have heard and understood the principles of respect and kindness that we do our best to teach. Although students were from different grades and different schools, you wouldn't know it, after Waterville. From that point on the unity only grew, with at-

tendance numbers increasing for the rest of the Wednesday trips until the end of the summer.

Our open gym nights were slower to grow in popularity than the Wednesday trips, but they also had great attendance by the end of July. I am looking forward to seeing these community nights grow even more next year!

Each year, without fail, some question why we spend money on youth group trips to water parks when we could be spending it on church-related activities. My answer is that a trip to a water park IS a church-related activity! For many of our young participants, these trips are the only Christ-centered gatherings they experience during the summer. And participation comes with clear expectations: we begin and end with prayer, treat one another with respect, refrain from inappropriate speech and actions, etc. We are, in part, building the future of the Church in Baldwin County.

I humbly ask that you continue to keep our Edge students, their families and myself in your prayers. If you can give, please give! If you can volunteer, please volunteer! Thank you for all that you do for middle school youth ministry here at St. Lawrence.

In Christ,
Stephen Sylvester



LIFE TEEN COVECREST TRIP 2022

After a year of fundraising, Life Teen finally made our way to Covecrest at the end of July! So many wonderful supporters helped us make it happen. This retreat has enriched the lives of every teen who attended, as well as our youth group as a whole.

Covecrest was a beautiful experience, and well worth the time it took to get us there. Nestled in the Blue Ridge mountains of Georgia, thirty-one teens arrived ready to receive whatever God had prepared for them.

Life Teen spent the school year focused on exploring the question 'Who am I to you, God?' which set us up perfectly ready to spend six days drenched in intimate time with Jesus through prayer and reflection, balanced with community time and activities. When we left camp at the end of the retreat, I asked each participant for their reflections on the week. Overwhelmingly, I was told they came away knowing God loved them individually, and they know He has a plan for their lives.

My heart was humbled to accompany these teenagers and witness their beautiful encounters with God. I watched them grow even more, to know and love Him as a friend. Another fruit of this retreat is the way it helped to bond the youth group together. Community is so important for everyone, and it's particularly imperative for teens to have support from their peers as they're growing in their faith. I was able to witness the teens praying for one another, encouraging one another, and sharing with each other the ways God has worked in their lives.

Our young people are amazing. Their love for God and desire to grow close to him is inspiring. The Holy Spirit is alive and well with this upcoming generation. Thank you so much to all who helped make this retreat possible through financial donations and prayers for our youth group!

If you know of a young person who'd like to join our youth program, please reach out to me via my email lifeteen@stlawrencefairhope.com.

May we keep each other in prayer,
Kathleen King





LIFE TEEN



LIFE TEEN



LIFE TEEN



LIFE TEEN



LIFE TEEN

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS! HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, CLASS OF 2022

Congratulations to all our Seniors! You've done it - made it through a high school career filled with more challenges than you could have probably ever imagined. But you did it. You should be so very proud of yourselves!

Some of you may be heading to college, others to careers, and others to a gap year. No matter where life takes you from this point forward, remember this: as cheesy or as trite as it may sound, the real, honest Truth is that you are deeply, irrevocably, unconditionally loved by the Creator of the Universe. This doesn't mean you are loved only if you attend Mass perfectly, make every decision using the catechism, follow your parent's without fail and never mess up. This means unconditionally! That when you make a bad decision, which you will, or when you find yourself feeling far from God, or don't even know if you're quite sure what you believe, that the God you met, the God you have experienced in St. Lawrence Masses and in retreats and prayer and time spent with people you love, that He is still loving you, not any more or any less than He has ever loved you. You were created intentionally, all your flaws and gifts, and God has a great plan for you. You are a great gift to this world, unrepeatable and irreplaceable. In the words of one of my favorite saint friends, Catherine of Siena, "Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world ablaze!"

The future that awaits you is immeasurably better, deeper, and more than you could possibly imagine. But if you find yourself needing to be reminded of who you are, know you always have a home at St. Lawrence. We will miss you and be praying for you.

With love and prayer,
Kathleen King



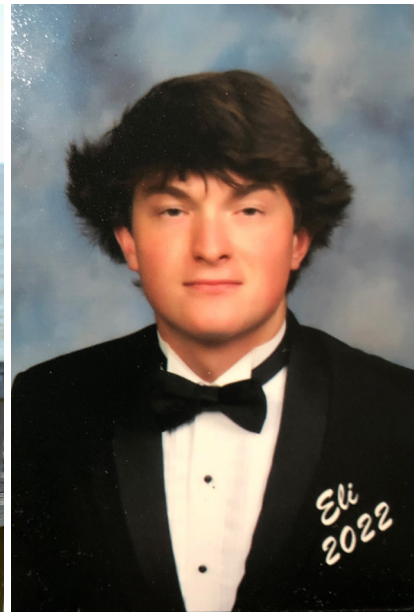
ANNA BURNS
Fairhope High School



BLAKE URBIN
Our Lady of Guadalupe



CARSON OWENS
Fairhope High School



ELI STRICKLAND
Fairhope High School



ISABELLA TRAN
Fairhope High School



LUCI WILKINSON
Bayside Academy



MARY BYRNE CALLAHAN
St. Michael Catholic High School



MASON FOWLER
Fairhope High School



MAURA BARNETTE
Fairhope High School



MICAH FARRELL
St. Michael Catholic High School



MONIAC FITZGERALD
Fairhope High School



PATRICK DAVES
Bayside Academy



ROGER HUCKLE
St. Michael Catholic High School



SELLERS HIXSON
Bayside Academy



TRIPP MILLER
St. Michael Catholic High School



WILLIAM FORD
St. Michael Catholic High School

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU, PHILLIP SYLVESTER



On August 1, 2022, I will begin my first year in discernment of my vocation to the priesthood with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception (MIC) in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. My vocation to the priesthood has been encouraged and supported by all of you at St. Lawrence. I'm so thankful to Fr. Steve who allowed me to serve Mass every day since 2010 and to the 8:30 am morning Mass parishioners, whose prayers have upheld me during my time at St. Lawrence.

As I start this new chapter in my life, I humbly ask for your continued prayers for myself and for all discerning a religious vocation. If you find yourself in the area of western Massachusetts, please come and visit the Marians at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy.

The grounds include the beautiful national shrine chapel, outdoor life-sized stations of the cross, and two first class relics of St. Faustina - the nun who our Lord appeared to in 1931. He said to her, "Paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature: Jesus I trust in You" which is the Divine Mercy image we all know today.

Vacation Bible School

VBS WAS AN AMAZING SUCCESS
And a successful Monte Carlo Night too!

2023
SAVE THE DATES
VBS:
June 12-16
Monte Carlo Night:
June 17

It was so good to have our Vacation Bible School back again! The children spent the week learning about the the Old and New Testament Josephs and their experiences in Egypt. They also learned about many other saints, made crafts, prayed, ate themed snacks, played games, had story time and more! The week ended with Mass and Jesus in their hearts!

We were so blessed to have Sr. Agnes Maria and Sr. Mary Avila from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist with us for the week. It was so special to have them interact with the children.

We are so grateful to all the adult and youth volunteers who made VBS so amazing and inspiring! Our high schooler volunteers worked so hard and did a fabulous job with their skits about Joseph in Egypt and with Sing and Play. We also had several high school and jr. high students who helped our adult group and station leader volunteers.

After VBS, the adults then had a fabulous time at Monte Carlo Night. It was such a fun time and the Dominican Sisters even joined us for the evening! We raised over \$11,000 for next year's VBS and are looking forward to VBS 2023!



Life Teen performed skits each day during VBS.



Katy Ford & Mary Catherine Martin make a rosary together.



Everyone had so much fun at outdoor games.



Jane Sylvester, spending time with the pre-school group.



Anna and Colette paint their angel craft.



6th graders did a great job volunteering at Prodissee Pantry.



5th grade girls enjoy decorating their St. Joseph Rosary boxes.



First grade boys Steele and Lachlan enjoy craft time.



Second graders paint unique art pieces of the Holy Family.



Kendall Knopf & Michelle Polczynski teach in their Egyptian hut.



Elijah Sylvester shows us his stained glass angel craft.

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

AFTER VBS, THE ADULTS GATHERED FOR A FABULOUS TIME AT MONTE CARLO NIGHT. IT WAS SUCH FUN! WE RAISED OVER \$11,000 FOR NEXT YEAR, AND CAN'T WAIT FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023!



FR. STEVE RAN THE CRAPS TABLE, WHICH MADE FOR AN EXCITING EVENING!



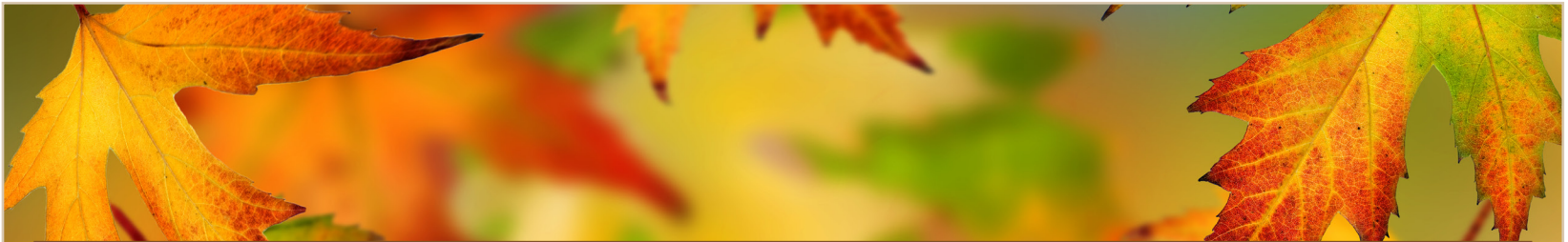
WE LOVED ALL THE SMILING FACES OF OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS!



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 126
MOBILE, AL



 ✦ **St. Lawrence 5th Annual**
Octoberfest 

Sunday,
October 16, 2022

12PM - 2:30PM
St. Lawrence
Gym and
Outdoors

LIVE MUSIC
PUMPKIN GAMES
FACE PAINTING
SAUSAGE
POBOYS FALL
TREATS
INFLATABLES ✦

CONTACT AFTON WITH QUESTIONS
251-517-5295

Taking donations of hay bales and various sizes of pumpkins from 10/4 - 10/12 in the parish office.
.....
The Parking lot between the Parish Office and Stuardi Hall will be blocked off Saturday, 10/17 & Sunday, 10/16.

