



Footnotes

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC PARISH

NOV-DEC 2023

Life is a Gift

“Primum Non Nocere”

First, Do No Harm!



THIS IS A JOY-FILLED TIME



by Fr. Steven T. Williams

Advent is upon us. It's a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of Our Savior. It's a joy-filled time in our society. There are several church programs to help in our preparation for Christmas. One of them is our Penance Service, scheduled for Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 pm.

Please keep all of those in religious formation in your prayers. 54 youth recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Archbishop Rodi, and more than 30 children are

preparing for First Penance and First Communion. There were also 16 in RCIA at the Rite of Welcoming.

Please keep couples who will be married in the months to come also in your prayers. I enjoy spending time preparing couples for the Sacred Bond of Holy Matrimony. I'm pictured with Lindsey Mackey and Jermey Phillips, who will be married in June 2024.

Our Christmas schedule is listed on the back page. Sending my prayers for a holy and merry Christmas for you all.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WALK TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 ST. LAWRENCE TO CHRIST THE KING



On this day, over 3 million people will pay honor to Our Lady of Guadalupe by making their way to the shrine in Mexico. Join us in honoring Mary as we walk, pray, and visibly demonstrate our faith. Bring flowers and other objects. All are invited!

8:30 Mass at St. Lawrence
9:00 Breakfast & blessing
9:45 Departure
11:00 Shrine of the Holy Cross (Blessing & Water Break)
12:30 Walk to Christ the King
1:00 Arrive at Our Lady of Guadalupe outside CTK Chapel
Ride St. Lawrence Bus Back

EMAIL DANA.HAMMELE@GMAIL.COM TO SIGN UP AND FOR MORE DETAILS

Give the Gift of Pilgrimage this Christmas
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MEXICO PILGRIMAGE
MARCH 7-12, 2024
with Fr. Steve Williams & Dana Hammele
Questions? Contact Dana @ 251-269-0950

www.206tours.com/dana

Parishioners enjoy an insightful presentation from Fr. Steve. Classes offer a wonderful opportunity to learn more of the Church's teachings on a variety of subjects.



FR. STEVE & the Faith

On Wednesday, November 8, over 120 parishioners joined Fr. Steve for an engaging class on the **Separation of Church and State**. It was a fun night of formation, community, and conversation.

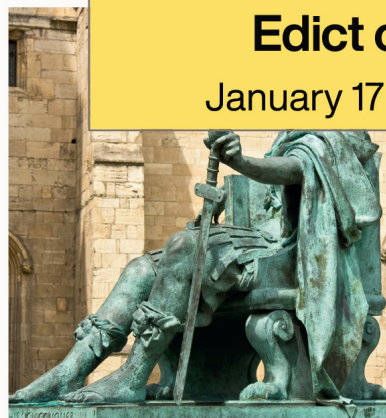


Join us in January for the next class



**Church History:
Pentecost to the
Edict of Milan**

January 17 at 6:30 P.M.



COOKING WITH FR. MARTIN

Parishioners enjoy a delightful meal of Indian cuisine from Fr. Martin, Fr. Selvam and Fr. Susai Regis David



ABOVE: Parishioners are excited to sample Fr. Martin's authentic menu of Indian food, and engage in delightful conversation while they wait. BELOW: Fr. Martin prepares his delicious cuisine.

Fr. Martin recently hosted a cooking class where he prepared Indian cuisine for a parish dinner. He was assisted by his brother priests, Fr. Selvam and Fr. Susai Regis David, of the Heralds of Good News Order in preparing such a large meal. The food was very delicious and most authentic. The event was very informative and entertaining! Everyone enjoyed the food as well as Fr. Steve's host commentary as Fr. Martin cooked. The meal included a beef broth soup, dal tadka, potato masala and chicken curry. We look forward to hosting more parish cooking evenings together in the future! Notifications will be sent out when we set up another class.





Fr. Steve was a wonderful host and welcomed Fr. Martin's brother priests with gratitude for helping to create such a wonderful meal.



Fr. Martin prepared Chicken Curry in front of guests, helping them to learn how to recreate it at home.



Preparing a flavorful dish requires the right spices. Fr. Martin shares essential ingredients with the group.



It was fun to learn how to prepare the dish, and also fun to sample Fr. Martin's cuisine.



On Saturday, October 14th, over 30 parishioners gathered in the Fairhope Park to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and other prayers. The group gathered to honor and commemorate Our Lady's 6th Apparition at Fatima and as a part of the America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally. We asked for Mary's protection for the country, our citizens, our families and friends against the evils of our times.

TREASURES

Our parish group of seniors have a good time exploring new locations and visiting with one another.

St. Lawrence Treasures have been having a wonderful time this Fall, gathering for lunches and fascinating explorations around the Gulf Coast. So far, they have enjoyed Octoberfest bratwurst and Thanksgiving turkey in fun, festive fashion as we approach the holiday season. We were thrilled to watch the Blue Angels practice at Ft. Pickens on Pensacola Beach and traveled to New Orleans for a historic paddlewheeler cruise, stopping down the river at the Chalmette Battlefield. Our trips were not lacking in great meals too. We enjoyed McGuires in Pensacola and a satisfying buffet on the Louisiana paddle wheel cruise.

We look forward to the upcoming Christmas Luncheon with Christmas carols by Jimmy Jones and our trip to the Mobile Symphony later in the month. So many great meals, trips, and company as we gather together for our Treasures events! Please join us often!



Billy and Wanda Griffis along with Deen and Gary Bosso enjoy the time on dry land as well as the Paddlewheeler cruise.



The view of the Blue Angels was perfect from Ft. Pickens.



Our group waits to board the historic Creole Queen Paddlewheeler.



It was a blustery day at the Blue Angels, but they amazed us all. Jane Radka, Grace Dixon, and Joan Cowles enjoyed the day.



Our Treasures group had a great time with Fr. Martin on the Creole Queen Historic Paddlewheeler Tour in New Orleans.



The Paddlewheeler Cruise made a stop at the Chalmette Battlefield, the site of the Battle of New Orleans.



The Blue Angels put on a thrilling show for us.



Treasures always has wonderful luncheons with relevant and engaging speakers.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FALL 2023 SOPHOMORE CONFIRMATION RETREAT



"You, young people, are the ones He looks upon with love. Christ, who says: 'Follow me,' wants you to live your lives with a sense of vocation. He wants your lives to have a precise meaning and dignity."

- Pope St. John Paul II

THE FAITH OF OUR YOUNG CATHOLICS IN 2023

This Fall, an overnight retreat was offered to sophomores preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat provided participants with an opportunity to learn and grow in their faith. There is something special about Adoration, praise and worship in the evening when there are less distractions.

Jake Kosockka, a junior at Auburn University, presented an amazing talk on the Eucharist. It's good for high school sophomore students to hear from college students who are just a few years ahead of them in life and in their faith. Later that night, students had an opportunity to sit around the fire and talk with Dillon about their faith and the struggles they encounter as teenagers.



HOW DOES ONE GROW IN FAITH & UNDERSTANDING?

This process is gradual and happens over time. One thing that is really helpful is when young people see a good example and receive quality formation from someone close to them in age.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAITH

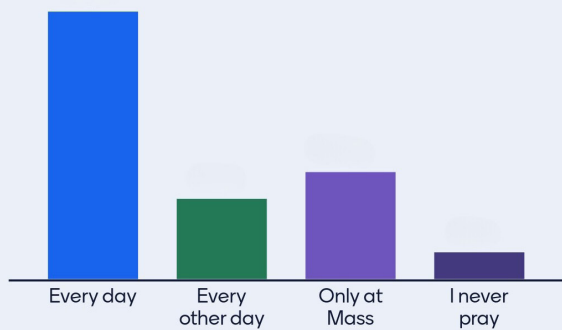
At one point during the weekend, the students were presented with a few questions. The responses to these questions shed light on the state of these students and their peers. This information helps inform the way we minister to them and the way you, parents and parishioners, can assist our young people in their journey. According to our young people, almost all report that their families go to Mass every Sunday. Most report that they are actively involved in their youth group and almost all report their youth group supports their faith. This reveals the importance of formation in the home, as well as youth group programs, to support and assist our young people in their growth and maturity in the faith.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIPS

All the students reported that their friends support their faith and most said their friends help them make good decisions. Peer pressure can also be a huge factor in making good decisions. It is important that we educate, promote and support our young people so they understand the value of good, healthy and positive friendships.



How often do you pray?



PRAYER LIFE

When asked about their prayer life, a majority said they pray every day, and many said either every other day or just at Mass. Daily prayer is crucial to growth in spiritual maturity and formation. These results show that while a majority of our young people are praying, it is vital that we continue to educate and model a habit of daily prayer.

IN CLOSING

Our Fall Sophomore retreat was fruitful. It was filled with faith, adoration, and the strengthening of our young people. This task, of educating, forming, and preparing our young people for the world, we see as very important. It is your role, as parents and parishioners, to support and encourage our young people in their journey of faith so they can be a force for good and holiness in a world that is in desperate need of the light and love of Christ.



PRO-LIFE

Being pro-life means viewing every life with unconditional love and kindness.

Opportunities to put our faith into practice were offered for all during our 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign. Starting with the annual Life Chain, volunteering at local pregnancy centers, and attending a Pro-life dinner with Dr. Lile as the speaker were made available.

We began the month by lining highway 98 by Fairhope Avenue with our signs of support for moms & babies as we witnessed the Pro-life message in our community.

A variety of volunteer options were presented and many took part in these endeavors. We spent the morning at the Women's Health Center in Spanish Fort sorting through clothes by putting the summer clothes away and hanging up the winter outfits in their baby shop.

We had an educational and productive day at Mary's Shelter Thrift Store in Elberta. Not only did we learn about how the Thrift Store operates, but we were able to offer a helping hand by getting items priced, sorted, and displayed on the floor for the many customers who shop at the store daily. All proceeds go towards supporting the Mary's Shelter home for expecting mothers.

As always, Father Steve offered Holy Mass across from the Planned Parenthood in Mobile and Todd drove us on the church bus. The students of the Pro-life club at St. Michael's High School, led by sponsors Drew Williams & Gabrielle Smith, also attended. It was a wonderful witness to see so many teenagers standing up for their faith and the Pro-life movement.

Mary's Shelter baby bottle campaign was also made available to parishioners who wanted to contribute by making a financial donation. Baby bottles were filled with coins & cash!



Justin Word and Drew Williams with signs at the Life Chain on Hwy. 98.

One of the activities which was centered around education and awareness was the Pro-Life dinner & speaker event on October 22nd. A delicious meal was prepared by Afton and her committee and served to over 275 people. Then Dr. William Lile truly amazed the crowd with the latest medical advances as it pertains to saving unborn babies. He performs life-saving fetal surgeries, such as open heart surgery in the womb.

Please stay diligent in praying for an end to abortion throughout our country and world. Keep a lookout in the bulletin for more opportunities in 2024 to get involved with the Pro-life movement.



Many faithful parishioners and friends showed up to testify to life at the Life Chain on Hwy 98 in Fairhope.



A wonderful group gathered at the Mary's Shelter Thrift Shop where we volunteered time organizing, sorting, tagging, and displaying items to be sold.



Dr. Lile poses with Fr. Steve and many of the students of St. Michael Catholic High School who joined us at the Pro-Life Dinner and Presentation.



Fr. Steve poses with presenter, Dr. William Lile.

FALL & CHRISTMAS WREATHS & DECOR
SUPPORT ST. LAWRENCE VBS!



GO TO STLAWRENCEVBS.COM
 OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR YOUR PURCHASE TO COUNT!





This group of dedicated and loving volunteers offered their time to the Women's Health Center in the name of life.



Many groups like the Women's Health Center joined us at the Pro-Life Dinner hosting Dr. Lile.



A group of parishioners at the Women's Health Center Annual Banquet in November.



Fr. Steve elevates the Holy Eucharist at the Mass for Life.



Fr. Steve offered a moving homily on the topic of life at our Mass for Life in Mobile.

STUDENT APPRECIATION LUNCH

On Tuesday, October 31st, St. Lawrence hosted a student appreciation lunch for all St. Michael Catholic High School students. Fr. Steve, Todd Sylvester and Kristen Seibt prepared over 400 hamburgers, 400 hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, chips, cookies and more! It was a great lunch together and a great way to make sure the students of St. Michael know they are appreciated and supported by the St. Lawrence community. Please continue to pray for the mission of St. Michael Catholic High School as well as the students, faculty, staff and coaches as they continue through the school year.



HELP LIFE TEEN RAISE MARCH FOR LIFE FUNDS

100%
OF PROFITS GO TO
LIFE TEEN
SCHOLARSHIPS!

LIFE TEEN

Christmas Cafe

HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR THE
MARCH FOR LIFE!

\$10 Meal

Includes Entree, Side, and Drink



Stop by the Life Teen Christmas Cafe and support scholarships for the annual March for Life! 100% of profits go directly to students, so come enjoy delicious food and help us support the pro-life movement at the same time.



Our Life Teen youth group helps prepare, cook and serve delicious meals to the parish for the Bazaar as a fundraiser each year. Thank you Life Teen!

IT'S ALMOST HERE!

ST. LAWRENCE
18th Annual
CHRISTMAS
Bazaar

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:00am – 3:00pm

370 S Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532

Featuring

VIRTUAL AUCTION WITH ONLINE BIDDING

Visit SLBazaar23.givesmart.com OR
text **SLBazaar23** to **76278** to bid!

BIDDING HOURS:

December 2nd at 9:00am

–

December 3rd at 2:30pm

Visit stlawrencechristmasbazaar.com

EVENT SPONSORS

Donna Bee Good Farms - Tastefully Simple - Dots & Swirly Art
Ken's Custom Prints & Frames - Simply Scarlett Smocks - Beaded by Aleena -
Spanish Fort Soaps & Gifts - Stampin' Turtles - SheWil Textiles - The Cookie Mouse, LLC

All are invited to the 18th Annual St. Lawrence Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Come enjoy this year's Advent themed Bazaar featuring handcrafted gift baskets, local vendors, ministry booths, and more! Support the Casserole Booth by purchasing homemade casseroles or quarts of gumbo! Get a quart of Seafood Gumbo for \$25, Chicken and Sausage Gumbo for \$20, or pick up your presale gumbo order! Place bids on items in our silent auction by texting, "SLBazaar23" to 76278 and get live updates on bids! Auction winners will be notified when they may pick up their items! Life Teen Christmas Cafe will have tasty lunch options in Stuardi Hall and the Patio. Speaking of the Patio, enjoy live music by Swamp Water Symphony and pictures with Santa on Sunday between the masses! The Christmas Bazaar is never lacking in treat options- candied nuts, gourmet crafted apples, and homemade baked goods! Come support your parish ministries and invite your friends and loved ones!

LOVE TO BAKE?

COOKIES, CAKES, AND PIES - OH MY!

Love to bake?

Please consider baking for the Christmas Bazaar Bake Sale!

We accept baked goods of all kinds! Please wrap your items for individual sale.

Drop off at the parish office or gym connector on

Thursday, November 30th

&

Friday, December 1st

from 9am-3pm

*Contact Afton with questions!
events@stlawrencefairhope.com*

Bluegrass CHRISTMAS

A ST. LAWRENCE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR EVENT!

LIVE MUSIC & SELFIES WITH SANTA!

FEATURING SWAMP WATER SYMPHONY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

10AM-11PM & 12PM-1:30PM


ST. LAWRENCE PATIO DURING THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

ENJOY LUNCH
FROM LIFE TEEN
CHRISTMAS CAFE
HOT CHOCOLATE
& COFFEE

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

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Christmas 2023 Mass Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

Confessions 12:00-1:00PM

4th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass 5:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4th Sunday of Advent Mass 9:00AM

4th Sunday of Advent Mass 11:00AM

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Children's Christmas Mass 4:00PM

Christmas Vigil Mass 6:00PM

Christmas Vigil Mass 8:00PM

Christmas Vigil Mass 10:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord

10:00AM