

Saint Lawrence PARISH MINISTRY *Guide*



2022-2023

SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC PARISH • FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA





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FROM THE PASTOR

The Amazing Gift of Your Time, Talent, and Treasure

Greetings from the Pastor,

Spiritual growth and renewal are critical to our individual spiritual development and vital to the community life of our parish. It is important to seek to embody the principles of stewardship in our parish. By becoming good stewards, we are thanking God for his many blessings, by returning to him a portion of our time, talent and treasure.

Please deepen your understanding of stewardship and what it means to be a good steward in terms of your own spiritual lives. I invite you to reflect on the gifts of time, talent and treasure that God has given you and how you use these gifts each day.

Time. How much time is set aside each day in prayer to visit God and spend time alone with him? How much time is spent in volunteer activities for the parish and community?

Talent. What special talents has God given you? Each of us received special gifts from God; and God wishes us to use them to love him and our neighbors.

Treasure. What percentage of your yearly income supports your parish, the church and your community to do good works? If God were to call you home today would you be happy with your commitment?

I invite you and your family to pray about stewardship and your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This booklet on stewardship and discipleship should help you. The church is blessed by everyone's increase in holiness.

Fr. Steven T. Williams

Saint Lawrence PARISH STAFF



Pastor: Rev. Steven T. Williams, ext. 113
Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Augusty Puthanpura, ext. 114
Deacon: Francis Zieman
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Beth Caldwell, ext. 117
Parish Secretary: Susie Blackinton, ext. 112
Events Coordinator: Afton Sylvester, ext. 115
Family & Evangelization Director: Lise Galle, ext. 132

Life Teen Director: Kathleen King, ext. 120
Adult Religious Education Director: Barry Little, ext. 128
Project Manager: Todd Sylvester, ext. 116
Children's Religious Education Director: Amy Duncan, ext. 137
Jr. High Youth Director: Stephen Sylvester, ext. 146
Media Coordinator: Genny Parrish, ext. 119
Music Director: Jimmy Jones, ext. 155



Altar Servers

Altar servers fulfill the important role of assisting the celebrant and the worshipping community during the celebration of Mass, special liturgies, and other sacraments. Servers must be in 4th-12th grades to take part in this ministry. For information on becoming an altar server, please contact the front office at 251-928-5931 or office@stlawrencefairhope.com.



Family Ministry

The work of Family Ministry & Evangelization involves supporting parents in their mission and vocation to their children and each other. We facilitate the mission of the family through Vacation Bible School, Monte Carlo Night, Parish Events, Children's Religious Education, the Mother/Daughter Tea, the Father/Son Event, and many other family encounters. We support the Sacrament of Marriage through the Celebration of Marriage event, and various other ministries. For more info. or to volunteer, contact Lise Galle at family@stlawrencefairhope.com or at 928-5931, ext 132.



Adult Faith Formation-RCIA

Catholicism is a lifestyle. From parish retreats to small group scripture study, there is ALWAYS something going on in adult faith formation. Some of the faith opportunities include, Scripture study, numerous classes and programs, retreats, RCIA, Between the Masses Study Series, Catholic Scripture Study Group, and much more.

One of the main focuses of the Adult Faith Formation department is RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Any non-Catholic wishing to learn more about our Catholic Faith, with the intent of coming into full communion with the Church, is welcome to attend. The classes begin in September and continue until Pentacost. The purpose of the class is to present the fundamental tenets of our Faith in the hope that it begins the lifelong journey of those who seek the Truth. Visit ADULTFAITHSTLAWRENCE.ORG to check out the faith opportunities open to you. For more information, please contact Barry Little at 928-5931, ext. 128 or at adultfaith@stlawrencefairhope.com.



Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar at St. Lawrence is an annual holiday event on the first full weekend in December. Over the past few years the Christmas Bazaar has grown into a wonderful experience for the whole family. It started as a small idea and grew into an exciting event that the people of St. Lawrence and Fairhope look forward to every year. Visit stlawrencechristmasbazaar.com for information about vendors, volunteers, and shoppers. If you still have questions, please contact Afton Sylvester at 928-5931, ext 115, or at events@stlawrencefairhope.com.



Parish Social Committee

Enjoy volunteering? Please consider signing up to be a part of the Social Committee. The social committee puts on fun events in the fall and the spring for the parish! Last year's socials were a blast! It takes a lot of man power to make these functions possible, and we need your help. Members would be responsible for helping the event coordinator with the monthly social events. This includes any of the following: decorating, setting up, cooking, and cleaning after the event according to your availability and preference.

Contact Afton Sylvester to join the team! 928-5931, ext 115, or at EVENTS@STLAWRENCEFAIRHOPE.COM.

EDGE (Middle School)

Edge, or Jr. High Youth Ministry, is a program for students in 6th-8th grades to encounter Christ in the teachings of the Church and each other. The program consists of weekly meals and classes during the school year and Wednesday day trips to many fun places during the summer. During the school year, Edge students meet from 6-7:30 PM on Wednesday nights in the gym and the upstairs Edge classroom. The summer program includes an overnight trip at the beginning of the summer and a retreat at the end of June. More information about Edge is available online at www.stlawrencejrhigh.org, and Edge Director Stephen Sylvester can be reached at (251)-928-5931 ext.146 or edge@stlawrencefairhope.com





Parish Council

The Parish Council is a group of dedicated parishioners elected by the St. Lawrence parish community that advise our pastor, Fr. Steve Williams. The council's role is to provide input on implementing the vision for our parish community in a responsible, well-thought out, and loving way that enables parishioners to deepen their faith while the administrative and logistical requirements that must be met for both St. Lawrence Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Chapel are addressed. Contact Fr. Steve Williams for information.

Bereavement Committee

The sole objective of this dedicated group is to be "a comfort in times of sorrow." They prepare, set-up, cook, and serve the families of our parishioners after funerals. If you feel called to serve either by volunteering your time or cooking expertise, or if your family needs to be served please contact the parish office to volunteer your time or commit to supporting by preparing dishes for drop off.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee's role is to assist the Pastor in all financial matters. They help prepare the annual budget, review financial reports, consult on major capital expenditures, offer advice on fundraising efforts, and provide written recommendations when archdiocesan contract review is required. If you have any questions about this committee please call the parish office.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Word with Children is a worship experience geared especially for those ages 5 through 5th grade. It mirrors the worship experience of the larger community, with a style that is relevant and fitting for children. A team of four adult volunteers leads the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 8:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, contact CRE@STLAWRENCEFAIRHOPE.COM.

Ushers

We believe that in our service to God, the mission of the usher/greeter in the Eucharistic Celebration is to greet, assist, and serve the worshipping community with joy, dependability, kindness, and reverence. This mission is carried out by offering a friendly, welcoming presence to those coming to worship, and performing such tasks as taking up the collection, presenting the gifts, assisting parishioners during Holy Communion, distributing the church bulletin and straightening the church after completion of the Mass. Ushers also provide leadership during important feast days and liturgical celebrations, and in cases of emergency. Please call the parish office at (251) 928-5931, ext 112 if you are interested in serving in this ministry.



Vacation Bible School

VBS is a time when friends and family, parents, grandparents, and children all come together to learn more about the Faith and draw closer to Jesus through prayer, joyful songs, Bible stories, lessons, crafts, games, service, and outreach projects. It's a lot of work, but well worth it! There are plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of this fun-filled ministry of evangelizing our children. Help is needed with set-up, decorating, painting, teaching, group-leading, crafts, snacks, and other areas. For more information, please contact Lise Galle at FAMILY@STLAWRENCEFAIRHOPE.COM.



Life Teen (High School)

Life Teen's mission is leading teens closer to Christ through discipleship and fellowship. Life Teen meets year round in on Sunday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. We also meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month for Adoration and Confession. During the summer, Life Teen stays active with additional events and trips. For more information, please contact Life Teen Youth Director Kathleen King at lifeteen@stlawrence-fairhope.com. Follow Life Teen on Facebook at St. Lawrence Life Teen Fairhope, AL, on Instagram @ [stlawrencelifeteen](https://www.instagram.com/stlawrencelifeteen) or visit us online at stlawrencelifeteen.com



Children's Religious Education

St. Lawrence's CREW (Children's Religious Education Workshops) provides students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade with rich, multi-sensory experiences to grow in love and knowledge of God through the Catholic Tradition.

CREW covers the Four Pillars of the Catechism: Creed, Sacraments, Moral Life, and Prayer. Kindergarten, First Grade, Sacraments Class (all second graders and older students who have not received First Communion), and Fifth Grade remain self-contained due to age and sacramental need, while students in Third and Fourth Grade rotate between different workshops. Each class is committed to teaching the students the Gospel message using crafts, readings, videos, and activities to connect the students to the Sunday Gospel reading and introduce them to the love of God through our shared Catholic faith. To register a child or to volunteer with this ministry, please visit <http://stlawrencefairhope.org> or email cre@stlawrencefairhope.com

Homebound Communion

Our mission is to share Our Lord's Body and love with our homebound parishioners and those temporarily unable to attend Mass, as one family in the Father. Members of this group are Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. They go out each Tuesday morning to bring the Eucharist to homebound parishioners. They share prayer, scripture, and the Eucharist with those they visit. You are encouraged to notify the parish office if you have a family member or friend who could be served by this group. This group meets Tuesday mornings after the 8:30am Mass. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group, please call the parish office or Sacristan Drew Donovan.





Treasures

Treasures is the seniors' group that offers a program of social and spiritual interaction for parishioners and friends. If you are age 50 or older, you are invited to participate in our events. On the 1st Monday of the month at 11:30am, we share a meal, visit with fellow parishioners, and participate in interesting and informative programs. The Treasures take monthly trips to places of interest in the area. There is a nominal cost to cover gas for the bus and admission to the attraction. Please stop by the office for flyers or contact Darlene Sommer at bdsommer@att.net or the parish office for more information.



Welcome Committee

As members of the Welcoming Committee, our service is to reach out and welcome new parishioners into the Saint Lawrence Parish family. We represent the warm faithfulness of St. Lawrence parishioners and of our pastor, Fr. Steve. We host three new parishioner dinners per year with planning luncheons prior to the dinners. In addition, we host a wonderful new parishioner Christmas Party. Please contact the parish office if you would like to support Fr. Steve in this wonderful service of our newest parishioners.

Monte Carlo Night



Annual VBS Fundraiser

Monte Carlo Night is a great evening for adults which includes food, drinks, auctions, raffles, music, and lots of casino games! In addition to the time and dedication of so many volunteers, this fundraiser makes Vacation Bible School possible! Many hands are needed to set up, decorate, run the games, and enjoy the fun. The various ways of supporting the success of this event include: becoming a member of the Monte Carlo Committee, sponsoring the event, volunteering as a dealer, helping to collect auction items, and participating in the evening. Please contact Lise Galle at 928-5931 ext. 132 or family@stlawrencefairhope.com to get involved or for more information.



Life Teen Praise & Worship Music Ministry

The Life Teen praise and worship music ministry seeks to enhance participation in the liturgy by providing contemporary and modern worship music to our Life Teen Mass on Sundays at 5:30pm. Life Teen Praise and Worship meets for practice on Sundays at 4pm. Please call Steve Harmon at 928-7369 to find out more about this important ministry.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Ministers must be nominated by another person and then be approved by the Archdiocese before being trained. Please contact the parish office at 928-5931 ext. 112 if you wish to nominate someone to become an Extraordinary Minister. The Church will then contact them about training dates and scheduling. Extraordinary Nomination slips are found in the back of the church. Place them in the collection basket or drop them by the parish office.

Open Arms Grief Support

This ministry assists those experiencing grief and all things secondary to a loss. We also offer support for the life adjustment issues that come with grief and loss. Volunteers offer professional, confidential, loving, sympathetic, and compassionate support. We meet in the "Open Arms" Room on the second floor of the Family Center every Monday morning from 9:30 - 11:30am. Please contact Dr. Christopher Welch by phone at 990-6785 or email at christopher1955@att.net. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28



Knights of Columbus (KOC)

As part of the largest Catholic Family Fraternal Organization in the world, we are proud to serve the community of Fairhope, AL. We are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, and defense of the priesthood. Our Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, and is unequivocal in its loyalty to the Pope. It is firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception until a natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family. It was on these bedrock principles that the Order was founded over a century ago and remains true to them today. We meet regularly every third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. To join this great organization of Catholic men, contact Mike Brown at mike.brown2@redcross.org.

Newsletter Assembly

The Newsletter Assembly group is the final stop before the Footnotes monthly parish magazine is mailed. This dedicated group donate their time and effort into making sure the newsletter goes out on time, in order, and looking good! The assemblers are always looking for people willing to offer an hour or two to help them complete this task monthly. They usually meet on the last Wednesday morning of the month. Please consider joining them and putting your personal touch on the Footnotes. Contact Genny Parrish at media@stlawrencefairhope.com.

Cursillo / Ultreya

"Cursillo de Cristiandad" means "short course in Christianity." The Cursillo begins as a weekend retreat experience, which by its own method and through God's grace, persons become fully aware of what it means to live out our faith. Through a series of talks, discussions, activities and the Sacraments, individuals experience spiritual growth, grow in community, and recognize the call by our baptism to be active apostolic members of the Body of Christ. Cursillo weekends are offered twice a year for men and for women. Those who make the Cursillo gather each month at Ultreya. The Baldwin Ultreya meets each month, alternating between St. Lawrence and Christ the King. If interested in making a Cursillo weekend or joining Ultreya please call Jackie Simmonds at jackiesimmonds@bellsouth.net.

Reception Committee

This dedicated group plans, decorates and helps prepare the food for important parish celebrations. The three main receptions are the Easter Vigil, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. We would love to have some new members! If you want to be involved with a great group of people and enjoy great fellowship, please contact Afton Sylvester at 928-5931, ext 115 or at EVENTS@STLAWRENCEFAIRHOPE.COM

Altar / Linen Guild

The Altar/Linen Guild enhances the holy and reverent atmosphere for worship by lovingly caring for the church, particularly the altar and sanctuary area. This dedicated group of parishioners helps clean the church, takes care of the altar linens and altar cloths, polishes brass candlesticks and other areas, and keeps the holy water fountains clean and fresh. The group meets on Fridays after the 8:30am Mass; During Lent, they meet on Thursdays after the 8:30am Mass. Anyone who would like to help with this very important ministry should contact Patsy Stapleton at 509-5128.

Music (Parish, Children's, Teen; Accompanists / Cantors)

Our Music Ministry exists to "sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" in praise to God by enhancing participation in the liturgy and by providing music that:

- Enables our intimate worship of God
 - Heightens the communal aspect of our worship
 - Empowers the growth of faith in all stages of life, encompassing all ages.
- Parish Choir meets Wednesdays at 6:30pm, and Children's Choir Wednesdays at 5:10 pm. If you are interested in joining please contact Jimmy Jones, our Music Director, by phone at 928-5931 ext. 155 or email at jramseyjones@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, offers person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility, and sharing, which is nourished by prayer, supportive gatherings, and adherence to a basic rule. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ. Members meet every Monday evening at 6:15pm. Please contact Frank Henning at frankhenning@aol.com or 928-4344 for more information. "We should spend as much time in thanking God for His benefits as we do in asking for them." ~St. Vincent de Paul

Men of St. Joseph

The Men of St. Joseph is an association of Christian men, united under the Catholic Church, who meet weekly to pray together and encourage each other to be the spiritual leaders of their families. The purpose of the Men of St. Joseph is to instill holiness in men and facilitate spiritual leadership in family and community life. The MOSJ meet on Tuesday mornings from 6:30-7:30am in the St. Lawrence Family Life building. Contact Kenny Crow 510-5376 or by email at kennyc@csbcpa.com or Jim Conwell by phone at 209-5856 or by email at jconwell@bellsouth.net.

Nursery

Nursery is provided for the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses on Sunday for children 3 and under. Loving employees and volunteers of St. Lawrence Church will take care of your bundles of joy as if they were their own. For questions about the nursery or volunteering, please contact Afton Sylvester at EVENTS@STLAWRENCEFAIRHOPE.COM



Lectors

A Lector's basic responsibilities at weekday and Sunday Masses include:

- Proclaiming readings from Scripture, except the Gospel, to the congregation.
- Announcing the intentions for the General Intercessions (prayer) when a deacon is not present.
- Reading the psalm and response between readings in the absence of a cantor (weekday Masses).

Those who exercise the ministry of lector must be truly qualified and carefully prepared in order that the faithful will develop a warm and lively love for Scripture from listening to the readings of the sacred texts. If you are ready to take on the challenge of delivering the readings to others during the Liturgy of the Word, please contact the parish office at (251) 928-5931, ext 112.

Respect Life

The mission of the St. Lawrence Respect Life group is to stand with the Catholic Church as she defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until its natural end. During the Spring and Fall, we participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Over 500 parishioners actively pray, fast and wear the "precious feet" pin as a sign of their commitment to life. Parishioners also can elect to participate in prayerful vigil at Planned Parenthood in Mobile at some time during the 40 days campaign. Many parishioners participate in the seminannual Mass for Life across from Planned Parenthood in Mobile as a testament to the Pro-Life movement and to prayerfully pray for an end to abortion in our community and our world. To become involved, please contact Lisa Word at lisaword246@gmail.com or 404-307-1355.

Sr. Men's Volleyball

The men's volleyball group is centered around keeping a healthy spirit and body. We are a group of men, age 50 years or older, Catholic and non-Catholic, who play volleyball every Tuesday from 6-8pm in the St. Lawrence gym. The group is then split into two or more teams. To join, we only ask that you come and observe for yourself the fun, spirit, and exercise we derive from each game. There are no fees nor meetings. We play with a light weight ball, a high net, and special rules to make the game safer. Members are notified via email of the date and location of the next week's event. Please contact Dennis Clark or George Thorpe for more information.

Secular Franciscans

The Secular Franciscan Order is an official Order within the Catholic Church, established by St. Francis of Assisi early in the thirteenth century. We live with our families and perform our jobs out in the world, gathering in fraternities on a regular basis. By profession, we promise to follow a Rule of Life approved and confirmed by Pope Paul VI in June of 1978.

In this fraternity the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for ongoing daily conversion, to turn away from sin and to be faithful to the Gospel. We seek, with and only with God's grace, perfect charity in our secular state, helping one another in this journey closer to Christ, following in the footsteps of Sts. Francis and Clare. May God bless you in discerning how you might best fulfill God's holy and true will for you. Please contact Chris Fedor at 599-8244 if you would like to learn more about this order.

Library

The purpose of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church Library is to help strengthen the Catholic faith of our community by providing a wide variety and format of resources and by supporting other St. Lawrence programs.

It is located in the Family Center building and is open to all members of the St. Lawrence Church family. The librarians are available to assist on Tuesday and Wednesday until noon, but the Library is open whenever the Family Center is open. It is a comfortable quiet space to sit and read, utilize the excellent reference materials, or browse the shelves and find something to borrow. If you want additional information please call Donna Corniel at 205-706-2629.

The Little Gift Shop

Welcome to our parish gift shop called "The Little Gift Shop". We are located in the Family Life Center (entrance is across from the front office). We are here to provide Catholic items to help your spiritual growth and to share with others. Our hours of operation are the same as the parish office and we are self serve. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to email Susie Blackinton at giftshop@stlawrencefairhope.com

Meals for Moms

Special Delivery! Welcome a new arrival to our parish family and make Mom's day by delivering a meal to her family. Meals for Moms is made up of volunteers who provide a meal for parishioners with new babies. Please contact Lise Galle at FAMILY@STLAWRENCEFAIRHOPE.COM or at 928-5931, ext 132 if you would like to provide a meal, or know a family with a new addition.

Christ the King Catholic School

503 Main Street, Daphne, AL 3652, (251) 626-1692

Christ the King Catholic School serves the Eastern Shore community by providing a quality Catholic education for children in kindergarten through eighth grades. The faculty and staff are committed to fostering the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth of students. The school offers an academic curriculum integrating faith and learning in a nurturing, stimulating, and safe environment. Together with parents and the parish community, Christ the King Catholic School prepares students to meet the future with faith, knowledge and integrity. For more information, please call the school at 626-1692.

St. Michael Catholic High School

11732 Higbee Rd, Fairhope, AL 36532, (251) 459-0210

St. Michael Catholic High School, a college preparatory school of the Archdiocese of Mobile, aspires for its students to become scholars, leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ. Recently Pope Francis spoke to youth, and encouraged them to strive for "magnanimity" which he defined as "having a great heart, having greatness of mind; and having great ideals; the wish to do great things in response to what God asks of us." We want our students to become magnanimous! We want them to develop great hearts and great minds, so that they may live joyful lives, and in so doing, do great things for others. For more information, call 251-459-0210 or visit stmichaelchs.org.