

## Frequently Asked Questions

### St. Mary's Holiday Bazaar

#### **Bazaar**

The bazaar is held at St. Mary's from 9am to 3pm on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The next bazaar will be Saturday, November 22, 2025. Mark your calendar!

This is one of the few old-fashioned church bazaars in Anchorage. There are no vendors. All goods are handmade by parishioners and friends. The handmade goods fill up Waldron Hall. In Cay's Room, we have the Regiftables, which are donated new or lightly-used items, for sale at great prices.

At the Souper Cafe, you can buy soup and cornbread, sit and relax for a few minutes before getting back to shopping. Youth at the Jesus Java coffee cart help to keep shoppers and workers energized.

#### **Funds Raised**

The funds raised from the bazaar are donated to various organizations. Each year, the bazaar team determines which organizations to support. Most of the selected organizations support children, women, and families. A list of organizations supported the last few years can be found here: [Outreach Recipients - St. Mary's Holiday Bazaar](#)

#### **Workshops**

Most months we have workshops on the second and fourth Saturdays, generally in Waldron Hall. A couple are scheduled for Classroom 2 downstairs. Most are from 10 am to 2 pm. Periodically we have special workshops that go from 9:30 am to 3 pm. Then as the bazaar date approaches, we have more frequent activities to get everything ready. You can see our current schedule here: [Schedule of Workshops](#)

Many people bring their own project to work on during the workshops. Others work on a common project. We'll definitely put you to work! We have a sewing machine that is available to use during the workshops, so if you have a sewing project, no need to lug your machine to church.

Some of the workshops have a specific focus, where we learn something new, or where many of the participants work on something special, such as salsa, jam, and bean soup mix.

At each workshop, we take a break and enjoy a potluck lunch together.

### **Email Distribution List**

We maintain a distribution list of bazaar workshop participants. If you'd like to be added to that distribution, email us at [StMarysBazaarAK@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysBazaarAK@gmail.com).

### **Expectations of Workshop Participants - NONE!**

*Time commitment* - People are welcome to come to as many or as few workshops as they like. And if you can only come for part of a workshop (come late or leave early), you're more than welcome. We'd love to have you participate as your schedule allows.

*Experience level* - No experience required. We welcome people who are accomplished crafters and those who are crafting-curious. For those who don't think they are very crafty, we like to say, "If you can use scissors, we have projects you can help with. If you can't use scissors, we'll teach you. If you can't master the scissors, we have other things you can help with. It's all about community building."

### **Children at Workshops**

Workshop participants are very welcome to bring children. We enjoy the energy and noise that comes with having kids around. No childcare is provided, but we can team up to help watch the kids, allowing the parents to have a couple of free hands for a bit.

Also, if your grade school or high school kids come with you and they want to help, we'll have projects for them to work on, too.

### **History**

The St. Mary's Holiday Bazaar was the brainchild of Judy Veerman. She proposed it at the 2007 Annual Meeting, and then launched this wonderful program of community building and outreach. With a brief break in 2020 and 2021, she's chaired all the activities to put on successful bazaars every year since. And during 2020-2021, we continued to have workshops via Zoom. It's all about community building. Many thanks to Judy for this treasure!

In 2023, Sherrie Simmonds and Jane Thomas became co-chairs to continue the tradition.

### **Contact**

Sherrie Simmonds and Jane Thomas are the co-chairs of the Bazaar Committee. You can reach us at [StMarysBazaarAK@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysBazaarAK@gmail.com).