

Saint Mary of the Lake Famous Fruitcakes

Country Fair and “Country Fare”

More than 50 years ago, a parishioner named Stephanie Toban became determined to bake a fruitcake that people would actually like. Several parishioners joined her to create the very first St. Mary of the Lake fruitcake. The Country Fair was started in 1961 as a way to showcase these delicious treats, along with a dinner and old-fashioned bazaar.

The parish marketed its fruitcakes as “Country Fare,” using the word for food or sustenance as a play on words. Advertised as being “sinfully rich,” the fruitcake quickly grew in popularity. At one time, thousands of fruitcakes were delivered throughout the United States and around the world. It became a labor of love shared by many parish families.

Nora CaPaul later succeeded Stephanie Toban as chairperson. Although the project was discontinued in 1993 due to shipping costs and the lack of volunteers, Nora led the project’s revival in 2001 with much success. Today the project continues with the help of dedicated parishioners, providing an important source of income for our parish. The story of our unique fruitcakes has been told in many newspapers, magazines, and on television.

Fruitcakes can be purchased starting in October and are \$20.00. Please contact the parish office at 849 -5121 x136 for more information.

