

With 101 baskets and \$9,000 raised, it's a record Basket Bazaar!



The organizers of the Basket Bazaar, St John's second biggest fundraiser of the year, are celebrating a record sum for this year's event. Slightly more than \$9,000 was raised, almost \$1,300 more than in 2024.

Last year's total of 80 baskets was easily surpassed, and 101 beautifully presented and wrapped baskets were laid out on tables in the parish hall.

The Bazaar opened with a preview on Friday evening, with entertainment from St John's own Sal Basile, and free cake made by Carolyn Miller.



CAPTION: Some of the 101 baskets presented for the Friday evening preview





CAPTION: The themes chosen by donors were as varied as ever, covering food and wine, games, pets, DIY, gardening, sports and children's toys, among many others.



CAPTION: The table of gift cards attracting tickets at the Friday preview



CAPTION: Sal Basile had the crowd singing along to hits of the 60s at the Friday preview. Sal, whose Facebook page is under the name Salvatore Basile, performs at many local venues.



CAPTION: A line at the ticket table, assisted by (left to right) Kelton Bound, Chip Flannagan and Sheila Fenn.



CAPTION: Ticket sales raised \$5,508, almost two thirds of the total.



CAPTION: With so much to choose from, people were making careful decisions

Mother Jackie acted as Master of Ceremonies, drawing tickets out of the bag and announcing the winners. She said the Basket Bazaar had been a labor of love, reflecting hours of work by the organizers, as well as the generosity of donors.

Many of the winners were among the crowd in the hall as the tickets were drawn.



CAPTION: Among the winners: Val Graley with equipment for green fingers, Amy Foley with Christmas candles, and Lynne Lersch (right) with a game of knee hockey. Far right: Ingrid Hobbs, with toys and books bound for her nephew.



CAPTION: June Cordeau wins a basket of Trader Joe's delicacies, Candice Mehl a fish-themed box, and Kathy Cole accepts a gift card for Smith's Acres garden center for her husband Bernie.



CAPTION: Star winners – Ellen Bach, and her granddaughters Amy (left) and Charlotte (right) each took home a basket. Amanda and Julia Zawacki were also multiple winners.



CAPTION: The last ticket of the draw was Roberta Jerome's. Roberta, a former professional violinist, won the ukulele.

The success of the Basket Bazaar was all the more rewarding because it was entirely the work of St John's parishioners. Kathy Cole, the chairman of the Basket Bazaar, also heads the planning and management of the Carnival in July.

She said, "the Carnival entertainment is provided by an external company, and we do more peripheral activities such as selling tickets and providing parking. But the Basket Bazaar is our own work and effort and what we raise helps run the church as well as meeting our other commitments."



CAPTION: Kathy Cole, Basket Bazaar Chairman (right), Lynne Lersch (left) and Cheryl Rutherford visited many neighborhood shops and restaurants to solicit donations for the Bazaar. Carolyn Miller (center) organised the Preview Party.



CAPTION: Lynne Lersch and Cheryl Rutherford, the master basket wrappers transformed donated items into magnificent basket packages.

Baskets were by no means the only success at this year's Bazaar. Attic Treasures – organized by Carol Kensel, comprised a wide range of new or lightly-used items including jewellery, kitchen ware, gardening items, puzzles and Christmas decorations. The bake table, managed by Amanda Zawacki, carried a range of delicious donated cakes and pies.



CAPTION: Attic Treasures, with Carol Kensel at the cash box, did brisk sales



CAPTION: *The bake table, was managed by Amanda Zawacki (left) with Jean Wiseman assisting. Right: Jean's pies are eagerly anticipated at Basket Bazaars – barely any remained by Saturday morning.*

Lunches were served from the kitchen at tables set up at one end of the parish hall. The service was organized by Judy Cook, assisted by Jon Cook, Carolyn Miller and Hugh and Kim Blake, with Madelyn Tremblay as the chief server.



CAPTION: *Left: Judy Cook and Hugh Blake serve lunch. Madelyn Tremblay was chief server. There was chili con carne, chowder and split pea soup to choose from, each served with cornbread.*



CAPTION: *Val Graley did brisk business selling Christmas decorations,*