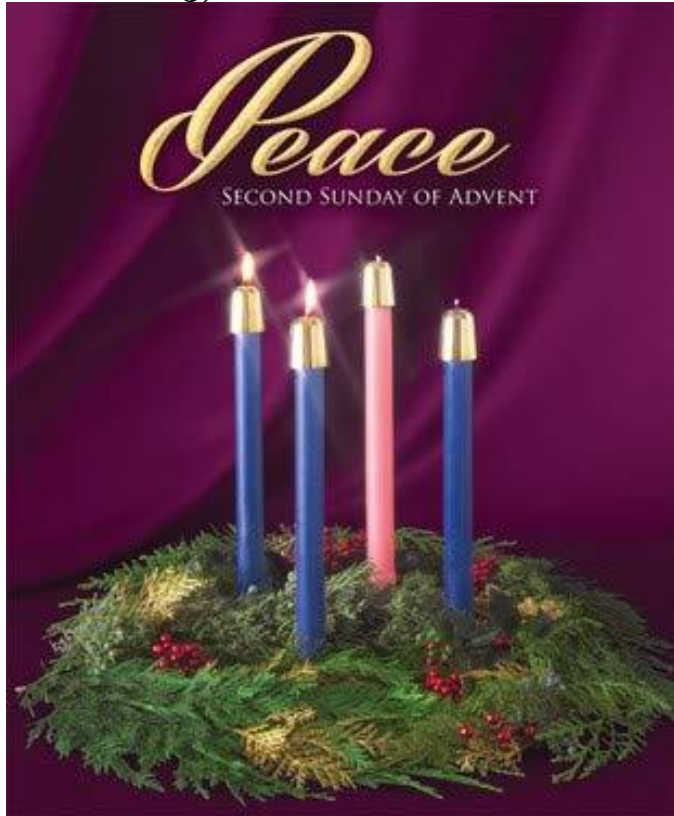




December 5, 2021



CHOIR MEMBERS & LECTORS NEEDED: Seeking individuals to participate in our Ministries. Lectors are asked to sign up in advance. *Talk with Fr. Robert Fath, Jim Radigan, or Mary Pat Boger if you have questions.* Individuals willing to become choir members or musicians *talk to George Stefan.*

Dates to Remember

- ✚ **Dec 3 & 4: First Friday Devotions at ICC** – 5:30pm Mass, 6:00PM-6:00AM Adoration, 7:00AM Mass.
- ✚ **Dec 3 & 5: Movie: The Chosen at Regal Cinema** showings at 7:00PM (12/3) and 3:30 PM (12/5). *We are looking for Catholics to FILL THE SEATS!*
- ✚ **Dec 4: 7:30pm Choir of the North Concert** at UAF Davis Concert Hall.
- ✚ **Dec 4 & 5: SHC Christmas Bazaar** – 9 AM to 5PM on Saturday and after weekend
- ✚ **Dec 5: 4:00 PM Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra Christmas** concert at UAF Davis Concert Hall.
- ✚ **Dec 7: Memorial Mass for Sr. Marita Soucy** – 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral
- ✚ **Dec 8: Holy Day of Obligation** – Masses at SHC will be at 7:30 AM, 12:10 & 7:00 PM
- ✚ **Dec 7-12: UAF Final Examinations**

Reading 1: Baruch 5:1-9 Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God’s glory.

Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

A song of praise for God’s great deeds.

Reading II: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Paul prays for the Philippians.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 John preaches repentance and Baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

Preparing the Way: Reconciliation in Advent



“There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father” ~ POPE FRANCIS

Friday, Dec. 10 - St. Nicholas 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Dec. 14 – St. Raphael 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Dec. 21 – Sacred Heart Cathedral 7:00 PM

JANUARY 12, 2022 | 10AM | DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS

Sacred Heart Cathedral Christmas Masses:

- December 24: Christmas Eve Masses 4:30pm & *7pm (*live-streamed)*
- December 25: 12:00am Midnight Mass *11am Christmas Day (live-streamed)*
- December 26: Sunday Masses at regular times.*
- January 1: 7:30am & 7:00pm*
- **Fr. Robert Fath will be in Kotlik for Christmas.*



Connecting the Gospel

... to the **First Reading**: Isaiah gives us a vision of the eschatological end times when the full flowering of repentance is made visible.



... to **experience**: GPS devices have taken the meandering out of our road trips and guaranteed smooth travel toward our destination.

Repentance is the “GPS” of our Gospel journey toward final glory. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>

Commentary for the Readings from the 1962

Roman Missal:

Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus referred John as "My messenger" who prepared the "way". John now wanted his disciples to realize that they, too, must follow Christ in this "way". Only through the same Jesus Christ, the long-expected Savior, will the "blind" of soul "see"; the "lame" of character "walk"; the "lepers" of sin become "cleansed"; the "poor" become rich with a new Gospel. (Red figures in picture indicate the blind, the lame, the leper.)



The Epistle points to these interior and social aspects of the "Christ" way: interiorly, by prayer, to "glorify" the Fatherhood of God; socially by our actions, to "receive one another" in the Brotherhood of Man, "even as Christ has received you."

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*.

Immaculate Conception Soup Kitchen needs fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, bottled water, granola bars, applesauce cups, cocoa mix, black tea, Ziploc sandwich and snack bags, disposable forks and spoons, napkins, and winter gear. If we all pitch in, we can make a difference. If you can't get out to shop, think about getting a gift card from COSCO to give ICC for the soup kitchen! More information can be found on their website: <https://iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen>.



Diocese of Fairbanks Synodal Nature of the Church

Sign on to the diocesan webpage at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org> and go to “What’s Happening” tab and then to “Current News” to fill out the Synodal Nature of the Church questionnaire. Bishop Chad’s letter on this can be found at www.stmarksuaaf.org/letters. The Diocesan Missionary Disciples online magazine has a special edition covering this topic.

The Advent Season emphasizes both the celebration of Christ coming into the world as a man **and** the second coming when the Lord will return again.



An Advent Tradition For Young And Old

For many families, preparing the manger for Jesus is an essential part of Advent.

December is here. We are four days into Advent. We are a mere twenty-four days from Christmas.

The Christmas busy-ness has already begun—decorating the house, preparing for guests, putting up lights, buying gifts, writing cards...

It’s far too easy to get far too busy far too quickly at this time of year. You may be feeling stressed already.

So how about an Advent tradition that brings you and your family back to the true purpose of this season—not so much preparing a house for guests (though that’s important, too), but preparing our *hearts* for Christ Himself, the most important Guest of all?

In order to keep the focus on Christ, many families have an annual tradition of “preparing the manger” for Him. This is not a one-time activity, but a simple daily routine throughout Advent that helps keep Christ at the center of everyone’s day. It is an especially suitable tradition for children, but everyone can participate.

Here’s how it works. You start with an empty manger, and for every good deed you do throughout the day, you add a piece of straw. If you are rich in good deeds during Advent, the manger will be full of soft straw when the Divine Guest arrives. The more good deeds you do, the softer the manger will be.



On Christmas Day, place a figure of the Baby Jesus in the manger, made soft and comfortable by all those good works.

You can use real straw, paper strips, yarn, or another material for the straw. For the manger, you can use a basket or box, or build one yourself. You can get creative with this wonderful tradition and add your own elements—some families take straw *out* if one of them does something bad, which works as a teaching tool! — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Faith & Family Formation Advent Challenge

The office of Faith and Family Formation has put together an Advent challenge to help you grow in your preparation and prayer as we near the Christmas season. Each week there are certain challenges that households are encouraged to check off, such as praying before a meal, saying the rosary, or simply talking to a friend about faith. Check out the handout on the table before/after mass or go to our website and download to check off each challenge. Remember to follow instructions and mail in for the raffle prize!



GOD'S PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you.

It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key. God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job. ~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Dec 5, 2021 * 2nd Week of Advent -

Justice Challenge: This week we celebrate two important feasts of Mary—the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Even though she was conceived without sin and became the Mother of God, Mary never ceased to be an advocate for the poor. In her Magnificat she praised God for lifting the meek and the lowly. And she told Juan Diego, a poor indigenous Mexican man, that he had dignity and that she loved him. This week's challenge is to pray in solidarity with those of Mexican descent who have a special devotion to Our Lady. If your parish doesn't have a special celebration the morning of December 12, find one that does and join in serenading this special woman.

The Nativity scene or Creche was created by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th Century to emphasize the humility of the Savior of the World coming as a poor child.

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END OF TERM/SEMESTER PRAYER

We thank you Lord, for this term.
 For the challenges, the successes,
 and the mistakes from which we have learnt.
 Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.
 Give us strength and courage to do what is right;
 to be witnesses of our faith.
 Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays,
 to appreciate what others do for us,
 to give time and effort to help others,
 to be peacemakers in our family.
 Keep us safe in our activities;
 give us good rest and good fun.
 Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.
 We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents
 and a community that cares for us.
 May we always be conscious of you in our lives.
 Amen

St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of students, pray for us.
 St. Joseph of Cupertino, patron of test takers, pray for us.
 St. Bona of Pisa, patron of travelers, pray for us.
 St. Therese of Lisieux, patron of Diocese of Fairbanks, pray for us.
 St. Michael the Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

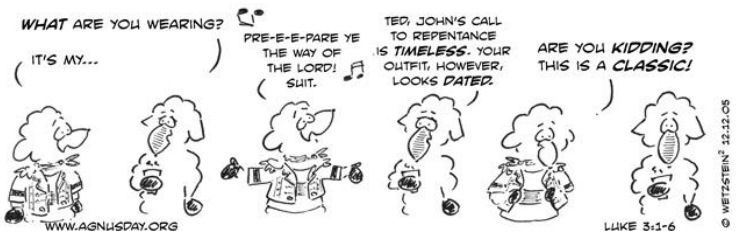
Special Collection in December

This month consider helping aging religious who have graciously offered their lives in service to others. Consider all the religious who have worked to help in the Diocese of Fairbanks! This month St. Mark will donate 3% of our December collection.



Traditionally, men and women religious worked for small stipends that furnished only the basics of daily living. As a result, most religious communities now lack adequate savings for retirement, with the men and women living on an average of approximately \$4,800 annually in Social Security benefits.

In 1988, Catholic bishops in the United States initiated the collection to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. **Please give generously and make a difference!**



Stewardship Moment

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...”

(Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you love.

Second Sunday of Advent -- December 5, 2021

Are you seeking “knowledge and full insight to help you determine” your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.



November numbers will be posted in the 12/12 bulletin.

Thank you for your continued support to St. Mark!

“The uncontaminated beauty of our Mother is incomparable, but at the same time it attracts us. Let us entrust ourselves to her and say “no” to sin and “yes” to Grace once and for all.”

—Pope Francis,
December 8, 2020



Dec 8:
Holy Day of Obligation -
Masses at Sacred Heart Cathedral will be at 7:30AM, 12:10, & 7:00 PM

St. Mark Parish: Ph.907-374-9564

Email: stmark@cbna.org

Website: <http://www.stmarksuaf.org>

Office Hours: Tues-Fri: 10am – 12noon.

Pastor: Fr. Robert Fath Ph. 907-374-9504

Email: rfath@cbna.org

Podcast: <https://frrobertfath.podbean.com/>

Deacon: Warren Lucero

Parish Admin.: Mary Pat Boger Ph. 907-374-9564

Bookkeeper: Marilis Bennett Ph. 907-590-9291

Music Director: George Stefan Ph. 907-978-6953

Sacraments & Becoming Catholic:

Contact Mary Pat Boger at stmark@cbna.org

Vocations: See Fr. Robert Fath

Parish Council: Marilis Bennett, John Fox, Cynthia Klepaski, Ritchie Musick, Jen & Sean Tucker

AREA WEEKEND MASSES

Sacred Heart Cathedral 474-9032

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Saturday Latin Mass: 6:30pm – 10/23, 11/20, 12/18

Sunday: 8:00 & *11:00am (*Live-Streamed)

Sunday Spanish Mass: 1:00pm

St. Mark Sunday Mass: 5:30pm

<https://www.sacredheartak.org/>

Immaculate Conception 452-3533

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm; Sunday: 7:30am, 10:00am

<https://www.iccfairbanks.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ICCFairbanks>

Saint Raphael 457-6603

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm; Sunday: 9:30am

<https://www.straphaelfairbanks.org/>

Saint Nicholas, North Pole 488-2595

Saturday Vigil: *5:00pm; Sunday: 9:00am, 12:00pm

<http://www.stnicholasnp.org/>

Good Shepherd, Ft. Wainwright

Sunday: 9:00am, SLC

Adoration: Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 pm, SLC

Catholic Women of the Chapel: Wed - 9am, SLC

Our Lady of Snows, Eielson Air Force Base

Sunday: 10:30am

Daily Mass: Tuesday-Friday – 11:30am

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for December

“Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Let Us Pray For: Pope Francis; Bishop Chad Zielinski, Fr. Robert Fath & all our Priests, Religious, Deacons, and Seminarians; an increase in vocations into the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Remember our students at UAF, Fairbanks Borough School District, and homeschoolers finishing another semester of schooling. For our sick, homeless, and elders. Grant our dearly departed eternal rest and bring peace to their families

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Go to the St. Mark website <http://www.stmarksuaf.org> to read “Why a Parish Census/Registration?”. We are asking everyone to fill out the paperwork or online form to update our records. Drop finished paper form off in donation basket at church. If you have questions, contact Mary Pat at stmark@cbna.org.